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Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-187 CONTENTS 25 September 1992

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Cuba's Escalona 'Guest' at Andean Parliament *[Havana Radio]* 2
Demands 'Fair Treatment' *[Havana Radio]* 2

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

U.S. House Approval of Torricelli Bill Noted *[Havana Radio]* 3
Stability Urged for Foreign Investment Climate *[Havana Radio]* 3
Argentine Provincial Delegation Signs Agreement *[Havana Radio]* 3
Electricity Plan Compliance as of 20 Sep Eyed *[Havana Radio]* 4
New Power Consumption Plan Announced *[Havana TV]* 4
'Specialist' Resigns Due to 'Intolerance' *[AFP]* 4

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS, France Begin Bilateral Discussions *[CANA]* 5

Haiti

PDCH Explains Mistrust of OAS Mission *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 5
Minister Victor Views IMF 'Misunderstanding' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Further on Ministerial Meeting in Artibonite *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6

MEXICO

Japan's Hata Visits, Shows Concern Over NAFTA *[Tokyo KYODO]* 8
Cites 'Desirable' Dollar Stability *[Tokyo KYODO]* 8
Government Gives Asylum to Honduran Hijacker *[Mexico City TV]* 8
Authorities Review Status *[NOTIMEX]* 9
Cuba's Robaina Addresses 'Growing Solidarity' *[Havana Radio]* 9
Meets With PRI Secretary General *[Havana Radio]* 9
PRD Members Continue Protests in Michoacan *[Mexico City TV]* 9
Vatican Relations Established After 128 Years *[Mexico City]* 9

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Authorities To Request Kidnapper's Extradition *[San Jose Radio]* 11

El Salvador

President Cristiani Addresses 'Peace Program' *[San Salvador Radio]* 11
FMLN Responds to Accusations on Fiscal Deficit *[EL MUNDO 21 Sep]* 12
FMLN Supports 'Valid' Reactions to VAT *[San Salvador Radio]* 12
Second Contingent of Fighters Demobilized *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 22 Sep]* 12
Communique Rejects Jesuits' Open Letter *[EL DIARIO DE HOY 22 Sep]* 13

Armed Forces Urged To Accept Commission Results *[San Salvador TV]* 13

Honduras

Communique on Costa Rican Minister's Release *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 14
Fishman Describes 'Ordeal' *[Tegucigalpa Radio]* 14

Nicaragua

FDSN, UPO Guerrilla Groups Issue Communique *[Managua Radio]* 16

Panama

President, Minister Hold News Conference *[Panama City Radio]* 18
U.S. Soldiers 'Allegedly' Throw Explosive Device *[Panama City TV]* 20
Doctors Extend Strike Another 48 Hours *[EL PANAMA AMERICA 23 Sep]* 20

SOUTH AMERICA

Brazil

Justices' Decision on Collor Impeachment Viewed *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 21
Collor, Marques Not To Resign Before Vote *[Brasilia Radio]* 21
First Lady To Be Indicted for Embezzlement *[O GLOBO 24 Sep]* 21
Approval for Impeachment 'The End' for Collor *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 22 Sep]* 22
Highlights of Collor's Defense Viewed *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 22
Opposition Campaigns To Improve Franco's Image *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 22 Sep]* 22
Vice President Could Assume Power on 1 Oct *[Madrid EFE]* 22
State Bank Said Engaged in Political Maneuvering *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 22 Sep]* 23
Judgment of Bank of Brazil Chief Criticized *[O GLOBO 24 Sep]* 23
National Communications Secretary Resigns *[Brasilia Radio]* 23
Financing Agreement With U.S. Viewed *[O GLOBO 24 Sep]* 24

Chile

Further on Accusations of Telephone Espionage 24
U.S. Embassy Mentioned *[Santiago TV]* 24
Former Official Confirms Spying *[Santiago Radio]* 24
Judge Asked To Visit Dine *[Santiago Radio]* 24
Students, Others Demonstrate *[Santiago Radio]* 25
Pinochet Blames Communists *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* 25

Ecuador

Students Destroy Doors, Windows at Congress *[Quito Radio]* 25
Explosive Device Set Off at Health Ministry *[Madrid EFE]* 25

Paragauy

Colonel Testifies on Car Trafficking Scandal *[ABC COLOR 22 Sep, 23 Sep]* 26
Police Chief Blamed *[NOTICIAS 24 Sep]* 27
Garcete Willing To Testify *[ABC COLOR 24 Sep]* 27
Officers in Custody *[ABC COLOR 24 Sep]* 28
Carrillo Melo's Arrest Ordered *[ULTIMA HORA 24 Sep]* 28

Peru

Guzman Shown to Media at Dincote Headquarters *[Lima TV]* 29
Dincote Official's Speech *[Lima TV]* 29
Government Extends State of Emergency 60 Days *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 30

Costa Rican Security Minister Released

Tegucigalpa radio reports the release of Costa Rican Government and Public Security Minister Luis Fishman and the other hostages upon their arrival in Honduras due to the "cooperation of the Apostolic Nunciature and the valuable cooperation of the Costa Rican ambassador." The Mexican Government "agreed to grant permanent asylum to the criminal" who was flown to Mexico in a Costa Rican aircraft.

Information director of the Mexican Government Secretariat, Rodolfo Gonzalez, said his government "has yet to grant asylum or shelter" to Ordonez, according to NOTIMEX. His immigration status will be established as soon as Mexican authorities "define the reasons for his departure from Honduras" and whether he was "subject to political persecution in his country."

According to Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus, the government "will ask the Mexican Government to extradite Honduran kidnapper Orlando Ordonez," San Jose radio reports. Mexico "will be contacted to allow Costa Rica to proceed in line with international provisions for this type of crime." He "committed a serious crime...and endangered the lives of several people," Niehaus stated, and he "will face several charges in connection with the kidnapping."

Brazil

Brasilia radio reports Presidential Press Secretary Etevaldo Dias said Collor "is not planning to reshuffle the cabinet before the vote on the request for impeachment" and "denied reports that Economy Minister Marques Moreira will resign." Dias also "ruled out the possibility of Collor resigning before the vote on the request for impeachment," since "the government has enough votes to defeat the request for impeachment." Dias also "denied reports that government lawmakers will not report to the Chamber of Deputies' session on the day of the vote."

Rio de Janeiro TV reports government supporter Deputy Roberto Jefferson of the Rio de Janeiro Brazilian Labor Party said "the government intends to obstruct the vote and convince congressmen not to attend the sessions, thus forcing the Chamber of Deputies to postpone the vote until after 3 October."

O GLOBO reports First Lady Rosane Collor "will be indicted for embezzlement in an inquest investigating misuse of public funds in the Brazilian Welfare Legion (LBA) during the period in which she was LBA president."

Mexico

Tokyo KYODO reports Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Japanese banks "are concerned over NAFTA" because the removal of tariffs and barriers to goods and services "may leave them far behind their U.S. rivals in the explosively growing market of 86 million people." President Salinas said, however, the agreement "will never lead to an exclusive trade bloc" and through the accord Mexico hopes to "attract more Japanese investment." Salinas "pledged" to consider Hata's request for "more direct access to the market" by establishing subsidiaries in Mexico. Finance Minister Pedro Aspe Armella said the request "will be put on the agenda for senior-level talks" between the two countries.

Cuba's Escalona 'Guest' at Andean Parliament

FL2209013592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] Friends, we have last minute reports to the effect that the president of Cuba's National Assembly, Comrade Juan Escalona, has highlighted the increase in his country's economic relations with Latin America, and has stated that Havana is working on opening up new possibilities in that regard. The Cuban legislator is attending, as a special guest, the 9th period of sessions of the Andean Parliament, which began today in Caracas with representatives of Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru in attendance.

Demands 'Fair Treatment'

FL2409131292 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Juan Escalona, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], said in Caracas on 23 September that the economic and political integration of Latin America and the Caribbean is an essential and legitimate aspiration of the region. Speaking as a special guest at the ninth session of the Andean Parliament, Escalona emphasized that Cuba demands fair treatment, claims its legitimate rights, and thanks its Latin American brothers for their solidarity.

Escalona said that the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba cut off all possible access by Cuba to foreign sources of financing, while the United States gives refuge to organizations hostile to Cuba. That is why we reject assertions about the end of the embargo and the cold war, since Cuba is a country on this continent which is embargoed, threatened, and attacked simply because it has carried out a different social project.

Uruguayan Foreign Minister Hector Gros Espiell affirmed that if the U.S. Congress passes the anti-Cuban Torricelli Bill, Uruguay will maintain its trade relations with Cuba. While in Costa Rica, the Uruguayan foreign minister defended in this way his government's position to trade freely with Havana despite the pressures which the United States, or any other power, might exert. In his statements to the press, Gros Espiell pointed out that these pressures cannot determine the course of Uruguayan trade.

Cuba

U.S. House Approval of Torricelli Bill Noted

FL2509015392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Today, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Torricelli Bill, which reinforces the embargo that for more than 30 years the United States has maintained against Cuba. With 276 votes in favor and 135 against, the House of Representatives followed in the steps of the Senate, who last week also made way for the so-called Cuban Democracy Act as an amendment to the defense appropriation. [sentence as heard]

As part of the established legal procedure, an advisement committee will be formed immediately. This committee will merge the two versions of this law from the House of Representatives and the Senate with the purpose of presenting only one text. Since its emergence as a draft, the Torricelli Bill has generated much criticism for the effects it has on the economy of third countries.

In one of its points, the bill demands that U.S. subsidiaries not trade with Cuba. The approval of the document presented by Robert Torricelli, Democratic senator from New Jersey, had the support of both parties; in other words, the Republican Party and the Democratic Party. The law is constituted by a series of cohesive measures aimed at imposing a change in Cuban policies through economic strangulation. This is something that the U.S. Government has not been able to accomplish through other means, not even by the failed invasion of the Bay of Pigs in 1961.

The bill not only affects Cuba. Its proposals include extra-territorial measures, which are considered by many countries as a factor that is against their sovereignty. Among the main points of the bill are: the imposition of sanctions on any country that gives assistance to Cuba; the prohibition for ships that stop in Cuba to dock in U.S. ports; and the cancellation of financial benefits to U.S. subsidiaries in third countries that do business with the Cuban Government.

At the beginning of the Torricelli Bill discussions in the different U.S. Congress subcommittees and committees, the Cuban Government made known through Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Ramon Sanchez-Parodi, who listed the measure of aggression against our country, its views on the (?revitalization) of the harassment policy against the Cuba. This cable was direct from PRENSA LATINA.

Stability Urged for Foreign Investment Climate

FL2409153992 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Commentary by Nestor Nunez]

[Text] The importance of the economy, of material life, to a country's development and the advancement of man himself is well known. Our case is no different. Furthermore, the true welfare of all citizens depends, perhaps more than in other cases, on the economy, its power and vigor. A strong economy also makes us strong, as a nation and as a revolutionary process. That is why it seems important to me that in difficult times, which we speak of every day and which we must confront daily, we go on to analyze the country's potential to face these current difficulties, derived, in the first place, from an imperialist economic embargo of more than 30 years and the loss of the geographic area with which, up to the present, we carried out more than two-thirds of our relations.

To support this, I want to cite an article recently printed by BOHEMIA magazine by my colleague Alberto Pozo, a writer for that magazine. With the title "Why They Trust Us," Pozo analyzes the factors that encourage foreign investors to invest their capital in Cuba in the categories established by our laws. As the author rightly points out, these factors are important points for reorienting our economic activities and securing our future if we know how to use them with efficiency, intelligence, and responsibility.

Without a doubt, knowing that the country has lost almost 80 percent of its foreign buying power in only a few years may make us think we are on the verge of chaos. Nevertheless, the country is resisting. The country is living with greater or lesser temporary difficulties. The country has not set aside its human welfare policy, and most importantly, the country is working for new ways which will allow it to progress despite all these difficulties.

This underlines, above all, that all these years did not pass in vain, and a complete material and intellectual base exists and is capable of supporting us and promoting advances. This, according to Pozo, is recognized by those who come to Cuba seeking trade. They would never risk their capital if they smelled instability, a lack of seriousness, or an absence of opportunities.

Argentine Provincial Delegation Signs Agreement

FL2409211392 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1951 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Before leaving for Santiago de Cuba, the members of the Argentine delegation from Entre Rios Province said: This trip to the island has surpassed all expectations.

Deputies (Hector Alberto Aranis) and (Juan Carlos Estratta) (?and Ramon Alberto de Torres), who is secretary of the Chamber of Deputies, signed, in Santiago de Cuba, an agreement for a future accord of brotherhood between the municipalities of Parana and Santiago de Cuba.

The Argentine delegation said the document signed is a basic tool that will help collaboration between the two

peoples, and the Argentines showed particular interest in the exchange of medicines, as well as in tourism.

The Argentines said they look upon Cuba with great affection, despite the propaganda against Cuba's people, adding that for this reason, they will be bearers of its reality, as well as of its heroic resistance to the double embargo.

Electricity Plan Compliance as of 20 Sep Eyed

FL2409181692 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The nation used 102 percent of its electricity consumption plan up to 20 September. In those 20 days, Cienfuegos, Sancti Spiritus, Pinar del Rio, Havana, Granma, and Matanzas Provinces stayed within the figures they had been assigned under their consumption plans. Camaguey, Ciego de Avila, Holguin, and Santiago de Cuba Provinces, and the Isle of Youth almost achieved this. The other provinces exceeded their plans despite the measures taken to stay within their figures and compensate for excess consumption.

During August and September, it can be said that the state sector overall stayed within its figures, although there are still isolated cases of state units that have consumed too much. From January to June, the residential sector complied with its monthly plans, but did not comply during July, August, and the first 20 days of September. High temperatures, vacations, and an increase in activity within the home had an influence on this.

Although the summer is not yet over, average consumption per Cuban household to date has dropped by 11 kilowatt-hours per month compared to last summer. Today, more than 2.5 million Cuban households use electricity, and because of the high rate of ownership of household appliances and lighting, the residential sector uses 40 percent of the electricity produced in the country. Thus, it is important to continue to fight for conservation.

New Power Consumption Plan Announced

FL2509022092 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] The Electric Union has informed this newscast of a new reduction in the state sector's electricity consumption plan. The reduction is in keeping with the availability of fuel in the country. The new plan cuts the state sector's consumption by an average 1,900 megawatt-hours daily.

The current consumption plan remains in effect for the residential sector. The figures assigned to each province in accordance with its population density and level of socioeconomic activity are the following, in megawatt-hours:

Pinar del Rio	1,059
Havana	2,080
Havana City	6,373
Matanzas	1,626
Villa Clara	1,392
Cienfuegos	921
Sancti Spiritus	795
Ciego de Avila	751
Camaguey	1,169
Las Tunas	779
Holguin	1,736
Granma	856
Santiago de Cuba	1,313
Guantanamo	500
Isle of Youth (special municipality)	243

This new plan will go into effect on 28 September. The provincial electric load offices [los despachos de carga electrica] will continue to monitor daily compliance with this plan. Any province exceeding the figure assigned it will have to, on the following day, limit its consumption by the same amount of electricity by which it exceeded the plan, by either stopping activities or suffering power outages. Also, any province that manages to stay within its daily figure will not have to effect any programmed power outages in any area of its territory.

The Electric Union calls on the population to reduce domestic consumption because during August and September, the state sector has adjusted to the figures assigned; but this has not been the case in the residential sector, which is at present consuming 40 percent of the electricity generated.

In future newscasts, we will talk about this, as well as about what consumption is like in summer.

'Specialist' Resigns Due to 'Intolerance'

PA2409042292 Paris AFP in Spanish 1833 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Havana, 23 Sep (AFP)—Rolando Roque Malherbe, a highly qualified specialist, announced on 23 September he had resigned from Cuba's National Scientific Research Center (CENIC) given what he terms "an overall atmosphere of intolerance" prevailing in that advanced sciences institute.

"Under those conditions, I cannot possibly continue the scientific work to which I have dedicated more than 21 years," Malherbe told foreign journalists. He was a professor, researcher, and chief of the CENIC's zeolite laboratory.

Malherbe said the CENIC directorate does not allow him to accept work contracts in foreign research centers. He

added that they tried to hold him inside the building on 22 September "using physical force."

This, "I regret to say, turns what was actually a labor and human rights problem into a critical political incident," Malherbe stated.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

OECS, France Begin Bilateral Discussions

FL2409191892 Bridgetown CANA in English 1815 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, Sept 24, CANA—High-ranking officials from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States [OECS] and the French Government began two days of deliberations here on Thursday aimed at deepening bilateral relations between the Caribbean and France.

"We are extremely close and we have done so very little in the past in trying to bring together (resources) for the economic and social advancement of our islands in the Eastern Caribbean, French and British. We have done so little...," St. Lucia's trade and industry minister, George Mallet, said.

Mallet said that while the OECS countries were moving towards trade liberalisation "we recognise that these small islands need time in which to do this fully."

"But nonetheless we must begin seriously to accept the realities of the situation," Mallet added.

OECS Director General Dr. Vaughn Lewis said that the intention of this meeting was to set a framework and programme of work for the working groups expected to be formed during the discussions.

"The emphasis in the work of the working groups we hope will be on the removal of barriers to trade and investment, and the facilitation of the movement of necessary capital or financial resources, and secondly on the development of the human and institutional infrastructure that can support these activities," he told the opening session.

Dr. Lewis said that while the sub-region recognised the developments taking place on a global scale, it was hoping through initiatives, such as those with the French "to position ourselves, small as we are, to take advantage of these circumstances."

"The geographical and social realities of this region demand that maximum opportunities for our mutual development be derived from collaboration...And this collaboration should, naturally have the fullest support of the government of France," he said.

The OECS comprises seven countries, including Dominica, St. Lucia, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent. They have trade and other ties with French Caribbean territories, Martinique and Guadeloupe.

Areas to be considered for closer bilateral agreements between the two parties include trade, agriculture, tourism, and air sea transport, joint ventures, and social services.

The St. Lucia-based French Ambassador, Sylvie Alvarez, said that the initiative for the meeting "can and must constitute an important step in the tightening of the relations between our two countries."

"...Exchanges in terms of economic, commercial, and tourist flows between the OECS and the French Overseas Departments did not reach the level of our reciprocal ambitions. We can do more," she said.

The ambassador said that she hoped the two-day gathering here would allow the two parties to better know each other "and at the same time, to give a new dimension to regional co-operation."

"During the meeting experts from your two delegations will have to draw the inventory of possible cooperation fields in very concrete sectors and to eventually identify existing obstacles. They will have to display imagination to surmount them and to open the way to new actions," she told the delegates.

The meeting here follows a conference of French politicans and officials held in Cayenne in 1990, under the chairmanship of the French prime minister to consider regional cooperation in the Caribbean between the French Overseas Departments and neighbouring countries.

At that conference an inter-ministeral delegate for cooperation in the Caribbean was appointed and a fund established for financing activities which would be mutually agreed upon. In his address to the meeting, the inter-ministerial delegate, Roger Dumec, said the French Government wanted to assert the bilateral cooperation around three major axis, including greater cooperation in utilising funds under the Lome IV convention—the aid and trade pact linking the African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (ACP) and the European Community.

Haiti

PDCH Explains Mistrust of OAS Mission

FL2409170292 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpts] While most of the 18 members of the OAS mission have arrived in the country to be distributed among the nine departments, the political sector continues to voice its opinion regarding the role of this civilian mission. One of the latest reactions comes from the Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH], which believes that the OAS civilian mission is the same as the OAS/DEMOC mission mentioned in the Washington

agreement. PDCH does not think that the OAS intends to help the Haitian people out of their situation, and is asking the parliament and the Haitian Army, which share in national power, to assume their responsibilities in this case.

PDCH lists the reasons the party does not trust the OAS mission: There is no timetable limiting the mission's stay in Haiti and there are no specifications regarding either the mission's role in this country or the methods the mission will use to avoid trespassing on national sovereignty, even if failing to reduce violence. Another reason given by PDCH is that the party believes the 18 OAS members are not really here to help lift the embargo. PDCH thinks that the OAS will use the embargo to force Haitian authorities to give the OAS what it has been seeking for some time.

Victor Benoit, on the contrary, sees the mission as a means to relieving the Haitian crisis. For him, the presence of the OAS members should help guarantee the security to allow negotiations to proceed. [passage omitted]

This debate is taking place while the country barely survives the economic and social problems caused by the embargo during the almost 12 months since OAS enactment.

Minister Victor Views IMF 'Misunderstanding'

FL2409213192 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The 47th assembly of the IMF and World Bank was held in Washington. Following the refusal of the assembly to receive the delegates of the government of Port-au-Prince and the assembly's decision to accept instead ousted President Aristide's delegation, the Marc Bazin government asserts that its delegates were officially invited by the IMF. In minimizing the incident, External Cooperation Minister Jean-Andre Victor asserts that it was a misunderstanding. According to the minister, if the monetary institutions really want to have a clear assessment of the financial situation of the country, the logical representative remains the Bazin government. Jean-Andre Victor speaks to Rothschild.

[Begin recording] [Victor] It is a great misunderstanding because we, from the government, were invited to participate in this meeting. We were invited officially and we received all kinds of documentation regarding the meeting. We even received identification badges which identify delegates. Therefore, we did not arrange or attempt to prevent some people from participating or from receiving this invitation that came to us naturally. The second thing is, once we learned that the lavalas sector was demonstrating against the presence of the government in these international sessions, we felt it was not necessary to create a diplomatic incident that could sign away the future of the relations between Haiti and those institutions.

[Rothschild] Did you participate in several preparatory meetings?

[Victor] As a matter of fact, yes. Several Haitian delegates participated in numerous preparatory meetings.

[Rothschild] Delegates from the Bazin government?

[Victor] Yes. But not only in preparatory meetings but also, a long time ago, the government had to vote for the participation of several states at these international sessions. As I said, if there is a sector that manages, controls, and masters the economic policy of the country, it is the government. If there is a sector that has the means of this policy, it is the government.

Therefore, whether they want it or not, if those institutions must work in relation to the government's economic policy, the official economic relations with the Haitians, it is the government that is concerned. The government is on the field and controls the economic policy. [end recording]

Further on Ministerial Meeting in Artibonite

FL2409205692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The members of the cabinet returned last night to Port-au-Prince after their first meeting outside of the National Palace. The consensus government will go back to its official office in Port-au-Prince. By holding this first ministers' meeting in the Artibonite, the government's Prime Minister Marc Bazin pleaded in favor of a decentralization of powers. This is reported by Rothschild Francois who was authorized to follow the movements of the Bazin government.

[Begin recording] [Rothschild] The first ministers' meeting away from the air-conditioned rooms and the luxury of the National Palace was held at the palace in Petite Riviere de L'Artibonite. At this great premiere, the head of the consensus government did not miss the opportunity to plead in favor of the provincial cities. Marc L. Bazin also put the Republic of Port-au-Prince or the National Palace on trial based, he says, on a presidential centralism. The prime minister is advocating today a new order in the relationships between the provinces and Port-au-Prince. This policy will aim at stopping the migration of 50,000 provincial people to the capital every year. All of this must be realized, according to him, by employment, an increase of income, and the availability of social services in the provinces. The head of government asserts that it is necessary to reinstitute the provinces as a beneficiary, as a player with equal rights in economic problems, social justice, and the exercise of freedoms. Mr. Bazin pointed out that the meeting in Petite Riviere de L'Artibonite was neither a whim nor a demagogy and least, an isolated initiative without a future.

[Bazin] The government, your government has come out of the National Palace. [applause] Why? Because it is

time that things change. It is [words indistinct] reserved to the province and to the province only the exclusive monopoly of the production of agricultural goods and services, roads and commerce, and the installations of the transformation of agricultural products to industrial products. Port-au-Prince, under these conditions will maintain its task of industrial center and public funds would be invested in the social sectors whose improvement and good management are indispensable to the [word indistinct] of the current level of its population. [Words indistinct] to the democratization of the political and economic structures, the total opposite of the presidential centralism, democratization whose [word indistinct] are called decentralization, reconcentration, national and regional development.

[Rothschild] Regarding the choice of Petite Riviere de L'Artibonite to hold the first ministers' meeting in the provinces, the head of the government explains that this initiative is motivated by an historical inspiration recalling that the father of the country, Jean-Jacques Dessalines had relocated the capital in Marchand Dessalines when there was a question of decentralization at that time. Marc L. Bazin made a point also with this council to pay tribute to the Artibonite parliamentarians, members of the alliance, including the Senate president who is now campaigning for his reelection. The head of the government also emphasized the importance of Artibonite in agricultural products. Senator Belizaire presented a thick notebook of grievances to the prime minister: irrigation, communication, health, education, and justice problems.

[Belizaire] [Words indistinct] in the problems that the department is facing. Mr. Prime Minister, [words indistinct] the country has problems, Marc Bazin has solutions. [applause] Today, we understand the difficulties of the consensus government with the embargo. [Word indistinct] the Artibonite population is waiting to see what you can bring to help its situation. Thank you prime minister, thank you, members of the consensus government. [applause]

[Rothschild] The prime minister had a working session with leaders in the region and is said to have identified the problems. Marc Bazin made certain promises to those who demonstrated in his favor. He promised to realize many projects in the Artibonite region and in Petite Riviere.

[Bazin] [Words indistinct] 8,000 square meters of concrete to be laid in the city. [applause] We will install telephone lines in Petite Riviere. [applause] [Word indistinct] so that people abroad in New York and Miami can talk with you. [applause] [Words indistinct] we have not found a school for them. [applause] I know you have a problem with the Benoit Bridge. We will rebuild it. [applause] We will quickly repair the ceiling of this palace so children can go to school in October and repair the palace totally so that school can start. [applause] [Words indistinct].

[Rothschild] This visit by Prime Minister Bazin in Petite Riviere gave him the opportunity to lay a bouquet of flowers in Crete-a-Pierrot in memory of the heroes of the national independence. It was an opportunity for many people to visit for the first time this historical place that is recorded so widely in the history books. [end recording]

Japan's Hata Visits, Shows Concern Over NAFTA

OW2409234092 Tokyo KYODO in English 2311 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Mexico City, Sept. 24 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari pledged Thursday [24 September] to consider allowing Japanese banks to establish subsidiaries in Mexico, Japanese officials said. Salinas, responding to a request by Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata, said he will tell his Finance Minister Pedro Aspe Armella to look into the issue.

Aspe later told Hata, in Mexico on a three-day official visit, the request will be put on the agenda for senior-level talks between the Japanese and Mexican finance ministries. Hata made the request to achieve greater access for Japanese banks to the growing Mexican financial market as the new North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) allows U.S. and Canadian financial firms to establish wholly owned units in the country for the first time in 50 years.

Mexican laws have long prevented banks from expanding into the nation by prohibiting foreign banks from establishing subsidiaries. Under NAFTA, which was concluded in August, Japanese banks can enter the Mexican financial market through their U.S. or Canadian subsidiaries, but they are seeking more direct access to the market. A Japanese Finance Ministry official told reporters it seems the chances are good Japanese banks will win such access.

Sixteen Japanese banks, including all the 11 biggest commercial banks, called city banks, and the Export-Import Bank of Japan, have representative offices in Mexico. However, they are not allowed to open even branch offices. The Japanese banks are concerned over NAFTA, which will remove tariffs and the barriers to the movement of goods, services, and money among the three countries in 15 years, may leave them far behind their U.S. rivals in the explosively growing market of 86 million people.

Hata told Salinas about such concerns in the Japanese business world about the treaty, the officials said. When the trade agreement takes effect at the beginning of 1994, as expected, U.S. and Canadian banks will be able to set up their subsidiaries almost freely, although restrictions on capital will remain until 2000.

Salinas and Aspe, in an attempt to allay the fears, said the agreement will never lead to an exclusive trade bloc. By making Mexico an open and competitive market through the accord, Salinas said he wants to attract more Japanese investment, the officials said. Jaime Serra Puche, Mexico's commerce and industry minister, gave similar reassurances in a meeting later with Hata, they said.

Hata is scheduled to attend a signing ceremony Friday for Japan's 10.4 billion yen loan to the country for financing part of a large- scale forestry project. Under the project, more than 100 million trees will be planted in a 130,000 hectares around the capital to reduce air pollution. Hata will leave Mexico on Friday for Tokyo.

Cites 'Desirable' Dollar Stability

OW2509032492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0257 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Mexico City, Sept. 24 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata said Thursday [24 September] that the U.S. dollar has regained stability against the yen, describing such stability as "desirable."

"I think it is a desirable situation in the market," he said.

He also told reporters that any sharp movement in yen-dollar trading causes problems, and hinted that the Group of Seven (G-7) major industrial countries will take concerted action in such a case.

Meanwhile, a government source accompanying Hata on his visit to Mexico suggested that the dollar's decline below 120 yen is acceptable as long as it is gradual. He said businesses could adjust to the dollar's decline if it took place over a couple of years. The dollar fell to a record intraday low of 119.83 yen in Tokyo on Thursday, before finishing at a record closing low in Tokyo of 120.25 yen.

Government Gives Asylum to Honduran Hijacker

PA2409144192 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1318 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Mexico will give asylum to the Honduran hijacker, Orlando Ordonez, to help end the kidnapping of Luis Fishman, the Costa Rican Government and Public Security minister. On behalf of the Costa Rican Government, Mrs. Aida Faingezicht de Fishman, who is the Costa Rican culture minister, thanked Mexico for its support during this crisis. The Honduran kidnapper, however, had previously requested political asylum in our country.

Ordonez kidnapped Luis Fishman, who was acting as a mediator between the Cinchonero People's Liberation Movement guerrillas and the Honduran Government, and two pilots in a light aircraft and took them to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The Honduran Intelligence Chief Colonel Manuel Luna and Copan Bishop Luis Santos were also taken to Tegucigalpa.

The Honduran Government has expressed its confidence that the case will be solved shortly. As has been reported, the Mexican Ambassador Carmen del Cueto was also involved in the incident.

Last minute information indicates Bishop Luis Santos and Col. Manuel Luna have already been released. The negotiations with the hijacker, however, are at a stalemate. A Costa Rican Government commission has just left to continue negotiations in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. In that city, the authorities have denied the kidnapping

has any political implications. They have reported the kidnapper has a criminal record for sexual crimes and drug trafficking.

Authorities Review Status

PA2509032592 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0019 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Report by Leticia Animas]

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 24 Sep (NOTIMEX)—[passage omitted] Rodolfo Gonzalez, information director of the Mexican Government Secretariat, reported on 24 September that his government has yet to grant asylum or shelter to Orlando Ordonez Betancourt.

The official said Ordonez's immigration status will be established when Mexican authorities define the reasons for his departure from Honduras and confirm the allegation he had been subject to political persecution in his country. [passage omitted]

Cuba's Robaina Addresses 'Growing Solidarity'

FL2409020992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Roberto Robaina, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and first secretary of the Union of Young Communists, arrived today in Mexico City by invitation of the Institutional Revolutionary Party's youth organization.

In statements made upon his arrival in Mexico City, Robaina pointed out that the main goal of his trip to Mexico is to talk about the Cuban reality during these times and to respond to the growing solidarity of the Mexican people with the cause of Cuba. Roberto Robaina added that the message of the Cuban youth is short and precise: lots of optimism; lots of confidence in our strength; and a great belief that we have the potential to overcome the situation we are facing.

Robaina added that he will meet with union members, workers, and students who are carrying out such selfless and sincere work of solidarity with our people.

Meets With PRI Secretary General

FL2409183592 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Cuban youth political leader Roberto Robaina has begun an intense schedule of meetings and visits to historic places in Mexico at the invitation of the youth organization of the Mexican Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI]. Almost immediately after his arrival on 23 September in Mexico City, Robaina, who is a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba and the first secretary of the national committee of the Union of Young Communists, met with PRI Secretary General Beatriz Paredes to talk about the activities of their two organizations and issues of current interest in their respective countries.

Robaina also met with Adrian Gallardo, the president of the national executive committee of the PRI youth front, before visiting the place where Cuban communist youth leader Julio Antonio Mella was murdered in 1929 on a crowded street corner of the Mexican capital. Later he visited the house where Manuel Mercado, a close companion and friend of Cuban national hero Jose Marti, had lived.

Upon his arrival in Mexico, Robaina stated that the purpose of his current visit is to talk about Cuba's situation at this time, as well as respond to the increasing solidarity of the Mexican people with the Cuban cause. Today Robaina has scheduled a meeting with officials of the Secretariat of Education and also with other political figures in the capital.

PRD Members Continue Protests in Michoacan

PA2309214792 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD] members continue to protest in Morelia, Michoacan, taking over several municipal offices on 22 September. The Michoacan PRD deputies did not attend the first session of the state legislature. Here is a report by Eliseo Caballero Ramirez:

[Begin Caballero recording] PRD followers in Michoacan took over 13 municipal offices, which are governed by PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] members, and staged protests in front of three other municipal facilities. There are 113 municipalities in Michoacan: 52 are governed by PRD authorities, seven by coalition governments, and 54 by PRI members.

Michoacan Government Secretary Armando Ballinas Mayet) has stated that all mayors have filed charges at the Prosecutor's Office for the takeover of public buildings, illegal deprivation of freedom, and traffic holdups. He said regrettable actions have not occurred in any of the municipalities, but he did not rule out the possibility of using force in the future. Ballinas stated that every possible effort will be made to hold dialogues and reach agreements prior to taking other steps.

It has been reported that Irimbo and Jungapeo citizens organized groups and made PRD members leave the municipal offices on 22 September. No regrettable actions took place in those two municipalities. [end recording]

Vatican Relations Established After 128 Years

PA2209153392 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 21 Sep 92

[Text] What is the meaning of Mexico's decision to reestablish diplomatic relations with the Vatican after 128 years? I think all Mexicans believe this means something. For the time being, we will let you know what

the Foreign Relations Secretariat stated in a very brief 20 September communique drafted with the approval of the Vatican State Secretariat.

The Mexican Government and the Holy See, moved by their desire to promote a relationship of mutual friendship, have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level by Mexico and nunciature level by the Holy See. Nunciature is the name the Holy See gives to its embassy.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat stated Mexico decided to establish diplomatic relations with the Holy See because the republic's political Constitution recognizes the legal status of churches and religious groups and because this decision is consistent with its policy of establishing diplomatic relations with members of the international community that share Mexico's goal of preserving world harmony and peace.

As you may recall, President Carlos Salinas and Pope John Paul II decided to appoint personal representatives on 16 February 1990 to facilitate communications and dialogue on issues of common interest. The Foreign Relations Secretariat reported that the exchange of permanent representatives will be in keeping with international norms and practice observed by Mexico.

Costa Rica

Authorities To Request Kidnapper's Extradition

PA2509024692 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Costa Rica will ask the Mexican Government to extradite Honduran kidnapper Orlando Ordonez, according to Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus. Niehaus said that as Ordonez is in the custody of Mexican authorities, Mexico will be contacted to allow Costa Rica to proceed in line with international provisions for this type of crime.

Orlando Ordonez committed a serious crime in Costa Rican territory and endangered the lives of several people. I believe we must proceed to request his extradition so he can be tried here, the foreign minister said.

In addition, the kidnapper is wanted by Costa Rican courts on rape charges. He was released on bail, which forfeited by leaving the country.

If the extradition request is granted, Ordonez will face several charges in connection with the kidnapping. At the same time, it will be possible to clear up several questions regarding the incident.

El Salvador

President Cristiani Addresses 'Peace Program'

PA2409223492 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Sep 92

["Excerpt" of news conference by President Alfredo Cristiani with foreign reporters and unidentified moderator at UN headquarters in New York on 23 Sep—recorded]

[Text] [Gilbert] Gilbert, Inter-Press Service. President Cristiani, you have received a list from the commission in charge of evaluating the Armed Forces. Can you give us any details about that list?

[Cristiani] Although the ad hoc commission has submitted a report, I have not had time to analyze it. I would like to say that the Armed Forces evaluation will be a confidential issue. We, meaning the government and the UN secretary general, will comply with the commission's recommendations, but it will be done confidentially.

[Bukara, in English] Nobio Bukara for the Japanese newspaper AKAHATA. It was a tragic conflict but peace was finally achieved, of course, and I would like to know [words indistinct].

[Cristiani] I think the lesson learned from the Salvadoran example is that problems are never solved with weapons. They are solved through dialogue and communication, and democracy gives everyone opportunities to maintain a permanent dialogue among groups. Political groups may talk with other parties and the people. That is how we must solve problems and encourage the consolidation of a nation's democratic process and development. Violence only leaves a tragic legacy, and we think it is essential to establish communications and seek ways to improve society in all countries that may have these problems.

[Larios] Carlos Larios, NOTIMEX. Mr. President, I would like to ask you: In your address to the UN General Assembly moments ago, you issued an appeal to the international community urging it not to stop the flow of resources. Could you specify, if you have the estimates, how much money you need and how soon you need it so the transition process is not jeopardized?

[Cristiani] Referring to resources, I think the most important things are those that relate to the return of former fighters from both sides to the country's civilian and institutional life. Perhaps the most important requirements deal with the land transfer program, the National Public Security Academy, and the National Civilian Police [PNC]. The requirements for this, even if we do not know what provisions will prevail for the land transfer program, cannot be calculated to the last cent, but we could be talking about $100 million to $120 million for the program. The PNC will need approximately $41 million for the first two years. Outfitting an institution like that is the most expensive part of its operations. These estimates have been made by advisory groups from Spain and the United States that came to assess the academy and PNC program.

Those are the peace program's greatest needs. We must not forget that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front attacks throughout the 12-year conflict severely damaged our economic structure, particularly the electric system, bridges, and highways. All of those things must be rebuilt. As to the electric system, which perhaps sustained the most damage, we will need approximately $300 million simply to restore the country's energy production capacity to what it was before the conflict. Given the country's normal growth and its additional energy requirements, investments to produce more energy are essential.

Our country has withstood severe reductions in its electricity supply, requiring up to eight hours of energy rationing per day given its scant capacity to generate power. As no investments have been made in 12 years, this is now an urgent issue. Estimates of electricity needs range from $800 million to $1 billion. We are talking about hydroelectric dams, which are extremely expensive projects. Our country has the hydrographic and thermal resources needed for this, and they represent the cheapest sources of energy. In sum, we will need approximately $1.8 billion to rebuild the country.

[Vilchez] Vilchez, Noticiero Univision. In your speech today you thanked the Armed Forces for their support. If there is a purge in the Armed Forces, do you predict a conflict with its members? Are you afraid that will happen?

[Cristiani] What I can tell you right now without speculating about the future is that the Armed Forces of El Salvador not only wholeheartedly endorsed the process that began in 1989, but the corps have also fulfilled their commitments, as you can confirm by the information and reports from the UN secretary general. There are no problems with the Armed Forces in implementing the peace process. We expect the Armed Forces' position to remain unchanged.

[Unidentified reporter] About the recommendations delivered this morning concerning the Armed Forces officers, one of the recommendations was a list of officers whom you reportedly must purge. Will you do it?

[Cristiani] We have always said we will fulfill the pledges made in the peace accords. That means the accords as a whole, and we will fulfill our pledges. That is also the Armed Forces' goal. We must remember that the Armed Forces participated in the negotiation process and its members know perfectly well what the peace accords entail. I repeat, the agreements have been faithfully complied with, and I have no reason to doubt that the Armed Forces will maintain that attitude.

FMLN Responds to Accusations on Fiscal Deficit

PA2409024692 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 21 Sep 92 p 1

[Excerpt] An authorized FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] spokesman referred to statements made by President Alfredo Cristiani on a radio and television network on 20 September. President Cristiani said the FMLN was responsible for the fiscal deficit. The FMLN spokesman responded: "The first issue is the origin of the crisis. Even if it is true that it existed before the Nationalist Republican Alliance took power, it is also true that they arrived with a basic promise that they were a party with enough administrative capacity to bring the country out of the crisis. This is the fourth year of this government and we are facing a more acute crisis and threats of new package deals, as President Cristiani hinted during his speech. On the other hand, during the national network of 20 September, Cristiani was trying to make the people think that the rejection of his economic package is coming from the left. That is untrue because as he increased the new package of measures, there was a general rejection from all Salvadoran society, even from large enterprises. Cristiani said we are all suffering equally from the crisis. That statement is almost true because the only difference is that some sectors can compensate for the situation as the package is designed to affect consumers, and that is the critical point of the situation. Cristiani gave a very detailed justification of spending for new institutions and their budget allocations, but he never explained that the budget allocations for the state's traditional institutions are not balanced. This is the case particularly in the Defense Ministry and the ministries dedicated to public security." [passage omitted]

FMLN Supports 'Valid' Reactions to VAT

PA2409180492 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has described the latest speech by President Alfredo Cristiani as basically defensive. According to the FMLN, Cristiani tried to deflect national reaction against the imposition of the latest economic measures, which have caused a great deal of unhappiness among different sectors of the country. The FMLN feels the value added tax [VAT] and the consequences it brings caused a strong reaction from social and political opposition sectors, something the president criticized in his speech. In contrast to the harsh blow he dealt to the economy of the poor, he authorized a loan for $45 million and other huge sums of money to buttress the banking sector, which is going to be privatized. The FMLN feels Cristiani's speech tried to justify the economic measures his government has implemented in favor of a few and against the majority. To conclude, the FMLN party notes all the reactions against the VAT are valid because the people feel in their stomachs the consequences of the bad economic policy of the Nationalist Republican Alliance government.

Second Contingent of Fighters Demobilized

PA2309234092 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 22 Sep 92 p 2

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] demobilized the second contingent of its forces on 21 September. Consequently, 1,670 former FMLN fighters deposited their weapons in containers under the supervision of ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador], and they will now participate in farming activities.

The FMLN General Command demobilized the second contingent of its forces on 21 September in compliance with the peace accords signed with the Salvadoran Government, it was reported by Leonel Gonzalez.

The demobilization of this new contingent of former FMLN fighters—who now total 1,670—occurred in 15 of the FMLN gathering points located in various parts of the country, LA PRENSA GRAFICA reported.

The FMLN announced it had decided to place 20 percent of the weapons included in the general inventory in containers supervised by ONUSAL now that the FMLN is preparing for its registration as a political party.

Gonzalez, one of the FMLN's leaders, held a news conference in the capital and announced the demobilization of approximately 1,670 former fighters.

According to Gonzalez, the FMLN proceeded to demobilize the second 20 percent of its fighters on 21 September in compliance with the new timetable agreed upon with the United Nations and the government.

The main event was held in Aguacayo, 35 km north of San Salvador, in Cuscatlan Department.

The first contingent of fighters was demobilized on 30 June when approximately 1,680 former fighters turned over their weapons to ONUSAL and returned to farming activities.

The rebel leader said he believes the FMLN has fulfilled its pledges and is willing to dismantle its military structure in the measure that most of the agreements are implemented," he said, adding that both the government and the FMLN have fulfilled their pledges. [no opening quotation mark as published]

Gonzalez recognized important issues are still pending settlement in September, mainly concerning the dismantling of the FMLN military structure. He said other issues are awaiting resolutions, including the distribution of land to former FMLN and Army fighters and civilians.

Communique Rejects Jesuits' Open Letter

PA2409030792 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 22 Sep 92 p 57

[Paid advertisement by the Salvadoran Armed Forces High Command issued in San Salvador on 21 September]

[Text] The High Command of the Armed Forces of El Salvador states the following regarding an open letter signed by a group of Jesuit provincial leaders living in the United States that contains offensive statements against the Salvadoran Armed Forces, particularly against the "Atlacatl" Rapid Deployment Infantry Battalion, the Salvadoran people, and international organizations that have supported the peace efforts in El Salvador:

1. The heroic "Atlacatl" Battalion, so named in recognition of the valor with which the courageous Indian chieftains fought the Spanish conquerors, was created in 1981 in response to the strategic need to defend the nation's institutions, which were threatened by a Marxist-Leninist aggression.

2. Throughout the 11 years that followed the creation of this glorious battalion, many heroic actions were carried out with sweat and blood to fulfill the sacred mission entrusted to the Armed Forces by the Constitution of the Republic, supporting the national efforts exerted to counter the goals sought by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and its international supporters.

3. We cannot accept the charges against the "Atlacatl" Battalion as a whole based on the misguided actions of anyone in its ranks. That would be tantamount to blaming the Jesuit Community for "THE CHURCH'S BLACK LEGEND."

4. We think only honest and patriotic Salvadorans are qualified to assess the historic role played by the Armed Forces during the conflict to defend the nation's interests.

5. The Salvadoran people and the whole world have witnessed our Armed Forces' efforts and sacrifices to achieve peace and strengthen democracy in our country, as well as the punctual way in which we are complying with the Chapultepec Accords.

For those reasons the Armed Forces of El Salvador strongly reject the ideas outlined in that letter because we are convinced they do not correspond to the religious and spiritual orientation that should characterize the Jesuits, and because they do not support the efforts currently being exerted by the Salvadoran family to achieve a firm and everlasting peace.

San Salvador, 21 September 1992.

Armed Forces Urged To Accept Commission Results

PA2309232292 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Report by Hilda Quijano]

[Text] On 22 September members of the National Assembly Political Commission asked the Armed Forces to accept the special commission's findings with maturity as it will serve to professionalize the military organization. The call was made in the awareness that President Alfredo Cristiani must begin purging military ranks based on the information the commission will present on 23 September at the United Nations. According to Christian Democratic Deputy (Ludovico Samayoa), the Armed Forces must view the purge as their contribution to the consolidation of peace.

[Begin Samayoa recording] We must have the maturity to realize that this is part of a process that involves us all. Everyone affected by the measure must make sacrifices to benefit the organization, themselves, the country, and peace, which is what we are trying to achieve. [end recording]

Even before the report's presentation, speculation has begun to grow about the reaction of those officers to be discharged. Deputy Raul Somoza Alfaro of the Nationalist Republican Alliance believes the commission's work in evaluating the military leadership must be accepted positively in light of the benefits the Armed Forces will receive.

[Begin Somoza recording] The country's military organization could benefit from the commission's report. If the report concludes or one can deduce that any member of the Armed Forces has engaged in conduct that is contrary to the spirit or code of discipline of the Armed Forces, then the commission could recommend the discharge or transfer of that member. [end recording]

International news sources report the possibility of violent actions by soldiers who are forced to leave the Army. Deputy Jorge Villacorta finds such a situation to be out of the question.

[Begin Villacorta recording] We believe such negative predictions of a return to the murderous practices of the recent past are totally outdated. [end recording]

According to politicians, the Armed Forces are preparing to carry out their new constitutional role where public security is no longer within their purview and the priority mission is to defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Honduras

Communique on Costa Rican Minister's Release

PA2409142792 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1227 GMT 24 Sep 92

["Official Communique" issued by the Honduran Government in Tegucigalpa on 24 September; read by Presidential Press Secretary Olman Serrano]

[Text] The Presidency Information and Press Secretariat advises the public of the following: The release of Government and Public Security Minister Luis Fishman of the neighboring republic took place at 0730 [1330 GMT] on 24 September. He was kidnapped along with Monsignor Luis Alfonso Santos, bishop of Santa Rosa de Copan, Lieutenant Colonel Manuel de Jesus Luna Gutierrez, and aircraft crew members, who were taken to the city of Tegucigalpa, capital of the republic.

The cooperation of the Apostolic Nunciature and the valuable cooperation of the Costa Rican ambassador accredited to our country resulted in the release of the Honduran hostages upon their arrival in our country. The lives of Costa Rican Minister Luis Fishman and the crew members were respected. Calm has returned to their families and to the government of that sister republic.

The Mexican Government has agreed to grant permanent asylum to the criminal, who was flown to Mexico in a Costa Rican aircraft exactly two minutes ago. The Honduran Government reiterates its respect for the essential value of human life and expresses to the world it is always willing to do whatever is within its power to give testimony that in our country human life is the supreme consideration of society and of the state. In a spirit of Central American solidarity, Government and Public Security Minister Luis Fishman was accompanied on his return trip—aboard an Honduran Air Force aircraft—by Francisco Cardona, Honduran government and justice minister, and Brigadier General Guillermo Paredes Hernandez, Honduran public security forces commander. We convey our fraternal solidarity to Minister Fishman, to his family, and to Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier and to the illustrious Government of Costa Rica and its people.

[Issued] City of Tegucigalpa, 24 September 1992.

Fishman Describes 'Ordeal'

PA2409154892 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1354 GMT 24 Sep 92

[News conference by Luis Fishman, Costa Rican Government and public security minister, with unidentified moderator and foreign and domestic reporters at the Honduran Air Force Headquarters in Tegucigalpa — live]

[Text] [Moderator] Good morning correspondents from different news agencies and Costa Rican brothers who are also here with us today. This has been quite an experience. First of all, I wish to introduce Luis Fishman, Costa Rican Government and public security minister, who was released 25 minutes ago. Also here with us are Luis Manuel Chacon, Costa Rican tourism minister, and the ambassador to Honduras. Here is Minister Fishman who has made a great effort to be here with us after his 24-hour ordeal. He will give you a brief introductory statement and then we will proceed with the question and answer period.

[Fishman] I am most grateful to you for your interest. I am most grateful to the Honduran Government for its position in resolving this situation in which I was involved. I must also express my deep gratitude to the Mexican ambassador in Costa Rica, the Mexican Embassy in Honduras, the Apostolic Nunciature, and all whose intervention brought about a satisfactory conclusion to my situation. I hope everything else dealing with Orlando Ordonez Betancourt is settled.

[Reporter] What were you doing at the meeting Mr. Fishman?

[Fishman] After attending periodic meetings with Orlando Ordonez Betancourt for almost four months, we agreed to hold a meeting with Santa Rosa de Copan Bishop Luis Santos and Lieutenant Colonel Luna of the National Department of Investigation [DENI] to work out the final details of a plan to receive in Costa Rica two Honduran citizens who had disappeared seven or eight years ago. Those men had been presumed dead. In addition, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights had censured the Honduran Government in a case involving these men. The men had lived in Colombia and are now in Panama.

We were working out the details of how these men were to be received in our country. Afterward, they were going to be handed over to the Honduran authorities. I became involved in the case when Orlando Ordonez Betancourt contacted Costa Rican reporter Lafitte Fernandez from the newspaper LA NACION to tell him he wanted the

participation of a top official in the whole process of repatriating these two persons who had been presumed missing. One of these persons is named Godinez, and I think the other one is named Medrano. I do not remember exactly.

Manfredo, Manfredo, pardon me, not Medrano, Manfredo Velasquez, and who is alive in Panama at this moment. The Costa Rican president was kept abreast of everything we did. He was informed and I understand the Honduran president was also kept abreast of what was being coordinated with Fernandez from the newspaper LA NACION and with the Santa Rosa de Copan bishop. I spoke to the bishop on the telephone on one occasion, and on 23 September I spoke with the DENI director.

[Reporter] Can you tell us how the hijacking occurred? What did the individual do? Did he grab a gun and threaten you? Can you expand a little more on the case of Manfredo Velasquez, who had been given up for dead many years ago?

[Fishman] The meeting was scheduled for 1030 on 23 September in the Don Bosco Institute. I arrived at the meeting. The bishop was there, Lieutenant Colonel Luna was there, and also Orlando. At a given moment, after the meeting began, he told me that the situation had become difficult in Costa Rica, where they wanted to kill him, and that I was his only way out and that, as of that moment, he would not leave my side. During the talks we reached the conclusion that it would be advisable for him to take asylum in the Mexican Embassy in Costa Rica at around noon. I spoke to Ambassador Carmen Moreno, a great ambassador and good friend, and 15 minutes later she arrived ready to cooperate as needed. I can say the same for the Mexican Government, which also coordinated with us on a portable telephone so that the asylum in Mexico could be arranged. Subsequently, Orlando changed his mind and said we should go to Honduras. He was armed with two pistols, a .38 caliber and a small .22 caliber.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] Manfredo Velasquez.

[Fishman] I cannot give you details on Godinez and Manfredo. The only thing I can say is that a meeting was going to be held on 23 September with Orlando to agree on how his surrender was to take place. It had already been agreed they would arrive in Costa Rica on their own means and that I, as public security and government minister, would guarantee their lives while in Costa Rica. It was also agreed I would be responsible for turning them over to the Honduran authorities. This was going to be agreed to on 23 September.

[Reporter] What was the most difficult moment you experienced during the time you were taken hostage, Mr. Minister?

[Fishman] While we were in the air. That was the only moment because, aside from the fact there was turbulence, it is known there are some hills that surround Tegucigalpa and it was very dark. That was the most tense moment.

[Reporter] Does the argument they wanted to kill him in Costa Rica justify his action to kidnap you, Mr. Fishman?

[Fishman] Well, I would say it is not justified to kidnap anyone, whether his argument is real or imaginary. I think there are other means. If he felt he was persecuted in Costa Rica, there are responsible authorities in Costa Rica who would have been willing—I myself offered to do so —to give him protection in view of his fear that they wanted to eliminate him.

[Reporter] Do you consider this a political or common crime?

[Fishman] I think it will be up to the tribunals to determine this.

[Reporter] Mr. Government Minister, how do you consider it?

[Fishman] I consider it a common crime.

[Moderator] He responded it is a common crime. Are there any other questions?

[Reporter] One of the initial reports received here in Honduras was that Mr. Orlando Betancourt might be involved with drug trafficking and that you were identified as the Costa Rican official who had fought drug trafficking the most and that there was some connection. Can you tell us at this point whether or not there is any connection between one thing and the other?

[Fishman] We do not have any information that Ordonez had ties with drug traffickers. His lifestyle did not indicate this and his relations in Costa Rica have not suggested this. I know for a fact that Ordonez had traveled to Colombia two or three times. He went to Colombia because the people he was trying to free in Colombia to take to Panama were in a area that—this is what Ordonez told me and Lafitte Fernandez, the journalist who was present at all the meetings—was occupied by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. I cannot tell you anything else.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] how were you forced? [words indistinct]

[Fishman] No, at no time was there psychological or any other type of [word indistinct]. Ordonez was calm and composed. I would be a liar if I said he tried to hurt the crew or the people in the aircraft.

[Reporter] What kind of negotiations were held to win your release, Mr. Minister?

[Fishman] I did not negotiate. I was simply informed of the Nunciature secretary's intervention. Ordonez

wanted to go to Mexico and wanted a plane. He wanted several people to go with him because he feared for his life in Honduras.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] to make a commentary. Why was Ordonez allowed to go to Mexico if he had committed a common crime?

[Fishman] Well, this is a question you will have to ask the Foreign Ministry [words indistinct].

[Reporter] How is it possible for a man, armed with a gun, to overwhelm the minister of Government and Public Security? How did such an incredible event occur? How can a state minister find himself in such a situation?

[Fishman] Well, I jog by myself at La Sabana every morning at 0600. It is, thus, not hard to kidnap me. I jog every day.

I went to a religious building, the Don Bosco Technical Institute. I never have any bodyguards with me and do not use a chauffeur. I had a meeting with the Santa Rosa de Copan bishop and, I believe, the Honduran DENI director. Obviously, I did not believe I had to take any security measures as I had already attended three or four meetings with them and believed our relations, let us not say were friendly, but were ones of consideration and respect.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, it is said the kidnapper was a regular citizen [words indistinct] received publicity in his country because he had won the lottery. He won a car and a dollar prize. How can you believe his story about Manfredo Velasquez and Bolivia?

[Fishman] I do not believe nor do I believe. Simply, one of the most serious Costa Rican journalists asked me to intercede and help Ordonez in this case. Period. If what he said was true, we would have seen it today or tomorrow and, if not, nothing would have happened.

[Reporter] Why did authorities from both countries give Ordonez so much importance if he was only a common criminal?

[Fishman] I would not have met with him or allowed him to come to the Ministry if I had known he was a common criminal. I want to tell you that with the authorization of the president of the Republic, I left a cabinet meeting at 1115 on 22 September because we had a meeting. He waited for me beside the Costa Rican Government House with reporter Fernandez and we drove around the block two or three times. On 24 September, he told me he noticed that other vehicles were following him as he left the Presidency. So, first I did not know he was a common criminal and less did I [words indistinct]

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, several Honduran media reports indicate Mr. Ordonez was a common criminal and had several pending legal charges.

[Fishman] He [words indistinct]. He said it was staged.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] previous training in first aid....

[Fishman, interrupting] No, he told me the only training he had received was in Libya for two years. On the night of 23 September, he stated he was in Libya in 1986 and 1987 and that he had participated in the Nicaraguan and Salvadoran guerrillas, as well as in several actions with the Cinchonero People's Liberation Movement in Honduras.

[Reporter] How would you describe this man? Would you say he is a quiet man?

[Fishman] [Words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] while you were kidnapped, did Mr. Ordonez [words indistinct]?

[Fishman] I believe he was agreeable and behaved well. I have no complaints about this.

[Reporter] Mr. Fishman, your wife is hearing you through Radio America in Costa Rica. Do you have a message for her?

[Fishman] I send her a kiss.

[Reporter] What a good way for Mr. Fishman to end his news conference. Here are his last comments.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct]

[Fishman] The information I have is that the two men are in Panama and that he promised to give the Honduran authorities a telephone number where they could be contacted.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] open dialogue with you. Did you fall asleep at any moment or did you feel tense because of your situation?

[Fishman] I was taking a [words indistinct] [laughter]

Nicaragua

FDSN, UPO Guerrilla Groups Issue Communique

PA2409195392 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Sep 92

["Communique Number 2 to the Nicaraguan people" issued by the Democratic Forces for National Salvation, FDSN, and the Opposition Patriotic Unity, UPO, in the Nicaraguan mountains on 21 September]

[Text] We take this opportunity to greet you respectfully and express our appreciation to our collaborators and to our commands in the cities and countryside for their struggle for the welfare of the country, which has been bloodstained by the military guerrillas and those who have curtailed our citizens' rights.

The Democratic Forces for National Salvation [FDSN] and the Opposition Patriotic Unity [UPO] accuse, before the country's human rights and international organizations, Mrs. Violeta Chamorro and Antonio Lacayo as accomplices and as direct executors General Humberto Ortega; Lieutenant Colonel Rodrigo Gonzalez, military chief of Matagalpa and Jinotega Departments; Lt. Col. Pedro Aurcia, military chief of Esteli and Nueva Segovia departments; and Major Guadalberto Molinares as the head of the operation—Upsurge 92—for their merciless repression and violation of human rights and for staining with blood the country's northern territory.

We reiterate our conviction to resist and defeat this military offensive, Upsurge 92, launched by the Army of Gen. Ortega, which has virtually 2,000 troops supported by two helicopter companies and other Air Force resources. We stress the objectives of this operation include delivering military materiel to FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] supporters to form clandestine armed groups of the Army known as recompas to act as anti-insurgent forces.

These supporters received money in Las Brisas, Matagalpa Department. In addition, 115 members of the Historic Fighters Movement left for Chontales. They maintain the terrorist organization in several departments in the country—even in Managua, as is the case of the (Bouense).

We accuse Mrs. Chamorro for her complicity, Antonio Lacayo for usurping the electoral vote, and Gen. Ortega for associating with criminals and violating human rights and the Nicaraguan people's liberties.

We warn the handful of centrist deputies—Frank Duarte, Victor Manuel Talavera, Alejandro Solorzano, Gustavo Tablada, Alejandro Perez Arevalo, Andres Robles, Alvin Guthrie, and especially Ivan Salvador Madriz—that they must give up their attitude of selling-out at the expense of the blood of the people or they will face our guerrilla forces' hunger for justice, freedom, and democracy.

There is corruption in the Presidential House, it is evident in every confiscated and expropriated property, and among those who support the reconciliation of this administration and the defeated red and black party [FSLN].

We demand profound and not just cosmetic changes. We demand the retirement of Gen. Ortega, Antonio Lacayo, and the nefarious Police Chief Fernando Caldera. We also demand total administrative reform of government policies. We want new job offers and not lay-offs. We want higher salaries and not more hunger and death. We demand the return of the confiscated properties to their legitimate owners, fair privatization without fringe benefits for those in power, fulfillment of the agreements signed by the government and the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN], and respect for our physical integrity. Also, we demand the resolution of the cases of the deaths of RN fighters by the hands of the dreadful state security and trials for those involved.

Our guerrilla organizations, FDSN and UPO, oppose the military violence of the FSLN and not its political ideas because we are builders of a new and authentic democratic process. We urge the members of the Armed Forces to desert and end the abuses against the people.

We believe in a civic and political solution to the armed conflict through a democratic plebiscite on the administrative changes to Mrs. Chamorro's policies and the withdrawal of Gen. Ortega's army. At the same time, we state our commitment to respect the result, even though we are also prepared to launch the final attack on the military and political dictatorship of Gen. Ortega and Antonio Lacayo.

We demand the UNO [National Opposition Union] leaders end the silence, the demagogic discourse, and indecisive positions in light of the great crisis the vast majority of Nicaraguans are facing. The people demand responses and not more promises or public embezzlements. We are for a civic and political conflict with unity and patriotism.

A dialogue can only be possible with the presence of His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo, and should be held in any other Central American country as Nicaragua does not have the necessary security conditions. In the meantime, we will continue to hold the democratic weapons as the price to be paid for freedom.

We still do not have specific numbers or information on the clashes taking place deep in the mountains. We will report to the Nicaraguan people on everything that was done here by the FDSN. In the meantime, a UPO commando occupied La Concha municipality during a political-military operation on 20 September.

We warn the friendly national and foreign reporters to identify very visibly the vehicles they are using to travel to the mountains for their reporting missions. At the same time, we urge them not to board helicopters in conflict areas as these are our targets, with the exception of the UN Observer Group in Central America and UN white helicopters and helicopters used for civic missions painted in blue and white or the colors of the flag of the Catholic Church.

Finally, we call on all the Nicaraguan people to struggle through all the democratic organizations to end the military, social, syndical, and political abuses. Prepare yourself, organize yourself. Only united will we attain the liberating victory to bequeath it to the new democratic generations and to move the country forward.

Now or never. It has been enough. The change is coming. As long as the people's will is not respected, we will fight to the end.

[Issued] Nicaraguan mountains, 21 September 1992.
[Signed] FDSN General Command of the Chiefs of Staff and UPO

Panama

President, Minister Hold News Conference

PA2409233192 Panama City Radio Soberana Civilista in Spanish 2000 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Weekly news conference by President Guillermo Endara and Presidency Minister Julio Harris with local and foreign reporters and unidentified moderator at the Presidential Palace in Panama City—live]

[Excerpts] Accompanying the president of the Republic is Presidency Minister Julio Harris. Good afternoon, Mr. President.

[Endara] Good afternoon.

[Moderator] We will begin the question and answer period immediately. The first question is by reporter Alexander Calderon of Radio Mia.

[Calderon] Good afternoon, Mr. President. What position will you adopt in response to the Legislative Assembly's approval of the Colon Free Port bill?

[Endara] I reacted on 23 September when I received the bills signed by the president and secretary general of the Assembly. I oppose the bills because I consider them disadvantageous, unconstitutional, and unfeasible, so I did what the Constitution instructs me to do: I sent the bills to the Supreme Court of Justice with my objections so the court can make a final decision.

[Calderon] Mr. President, during your recent meeting with Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen, did you bring up the extradition of Rodolfo Chiari De Leon, who is in that country?

[Endara] No. The meeting lasted about a half an hour. Our conversation centered first on a few personal comments. Among the more important issues we then discussed were the fact that Ecuador supplies most of Panama's oil and Panama wants to maintain that situation because Ecuador's oil is very good. We discussed that relationship and Panama's interest in maintaining the status quo. We also discussed the very important banana issue. As you know, Ecuador, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, and Colombia are banana-producing countries that would be affected by the measures the EEC is adopting or rather plans to adopt. We exchanged views and opinions on that issue. Those were the main topics we discussed. I did not bring up the Chiari issue, and I must say that I made a mistake when I told a reporter that Panama had not requested his extradition. After I made the statement the deputy minister [not further identified] reminded me—and I fully remember now—that we did request his extradition.

[Calderon] Okay. Thank you very much.

[Moderator] Arnulfo Barroso of EL PANAMA AMERICA.

[Barroso] Good afternoon, Mr. President. This morning four U.S. citizens hurled a grenade at a group of INTEL [National Institute of Telecommunications] workers on duty in Farfan. What position will your government adopt? Will it be a firm position? The Americans are always saying they are not safe in Panama. Will the safety of Panamanians also be threatened?

[Endara] As soon as I heard about those events I called a meeting with the attorney general, the government and justice minister, the acting foreign minister, acting Police Director Major Arrue, and Major Guardia, who helped investigate the incident. We reviewed the law and decided to proceed exactly in accordance with the laws and treaties that exist between the two sides. The U.S. citizens will be booked and investigated, the testimonies of INTEL employees will be heard, and all measures required by Panamanian justice will be adopted. We will then be able to consider what is established in the treaties, which state that within a reasonable deadline the Americans must be placed in the custody of U.S. authorities, who will make them available to Panamanian authorities. This will not be done until Panama has taken all the steps it must take.

[Barroso] Pardon me, Mr. President. What measures will be adopted at a diplomatic level?

[Endara] At the diplomatic level, I spoke by telephone with Ambassador Hinton. Our conversation was brief. I allowed the acting foreign minister to discuss most of the issues with him. I clearly stated Panama's position that this crime was perpetrated in Panamanian territory and would have to be investigated in accordance with Panamanian laws. The ambassador only said—this is what I deduced from the acting foreign minister's comments regarding the conversation—that the U.S. authorities would adopt very strong measures against these gentlemen. But that is their business. What I care about is that Panamanian law must be fulfilled. [passage omitted]

[Samaniego] Mr. President, what do the intelligence services say? It has been said that Americans are involved in the 18 September bomb attacks. Prosecutor General Rogelio Cruz neither denied nor confirmed that report.

[Endara] I have no information that would lead us to believe these attacks were perpetrated by Americans. This morning's incident seems to be isolated. The explosive device used does not cause much harm by itself. Although five persons were hurt, their wounds were relatively slight, thank God. I do not think this particular incident has anything at all to with previous incidents.

[Moderator] Alvaro Alvarado of RPC Television.

[Alvarado] Good afternoon, Mr. President. A reference has just been made to the 18 September attacks. The state security organizations, however, have not yet identified the culprits. This situation is regrettable and could seriously harm the country's economy and international

image. Do you know whether the attacks were perpetrated by military personnel, civilians, or political parties? What information have you received about these attacks?

[Endara] I cannot say that the culprits have been identified or that we have the names of individuals we could blame for those actions. A serious investigation is being conducted, and we hope to conclude it in the near future. For the time being, I cannot point my finger at anyone. I can say, however, that this was not a serious incident. We cannot say the national economy will be harmed, either. [passage omitted]

[Moderator] Itzel Velasquez of Eco Televisa.

[Velasquez] Good afternoon, Mr. President. The new Mexican ambassador presented his credentials on 24 September. It took the Mexican government over two years to appoint an ambassador. We think this appointment normalizes diplomatic relations. We would like to hear your opinion.

[Endara] I think today's presentation of credentials marks a diplomatic milestone in relations between Panama and Mexico. These relations should have never deteriorated. From now on they will improve constantly. The appointment of the new ambassador has been a good one. He possesses very broad diplomatic experience and is keenly interested in conducting his country's relations with Panama in the best way possible.

[Moderator] Francilino Diaz of Telemetro Panama.

[Diaz] Good afternoon, Mr. President. The country is being convulsed by attacks, strikes, marches, and protests. Do you think this situation is an indication that the government should change its course to meet the public sectors' demands?

[Endara] I do not think there is—what was the little word you used?—any convulsion in Panama now. In a free, democratic society, it is only natural to have protests, to hear opposing opinions, to have strikes and demonstrations. In any country where you fail to see these signs, you can be sure there is no genuine democracy. These are indications of democracy for us. We must learn to live with these events. I am convinced the government pays attention to all expressions of dissent to the extent possible. For instance, there was a disagreement between the government and the INTEL labor union. In the end, a good agreement was reached by the two sides. That is a good sign of how social problems can be settled within the government's capabilities.

[Moderator] Tomas Alberto Cupas from UPI.

[Cupas] [passage omitted] What will you say on 29 September when you address the world from the United Nations?

[Endara] I prefer not to disclose what I am going to say there. It is nothing special. I will just present Panama's position as I have done in past sessions. I will touch on a few international policy issues and present Panama's position on many issues, on a few issues, I mean.

[Moderator] Miguel Robledo from the Spanish daily ABC.

[Robledo] I have two questions, Mr. President. On 21 September Guatemala's Supreme Court officially acknowledged that, politically, Panama is part of Central America. How do you view this ruling?

[Endara] I think it means that a sisterly Central American country is clearly telling us that it loves us, that it wants to be identified with us. I was very happy to know that the Guatemalan Supreme Court has decided that for constitutional purposes Panama is part of Central America, therefore the president of Guatemala does not have to request permission to come to Panama.

[Robledo] Panama has sent or is ready to send observers to the Central American Parliament. Do you think that as a result of the fact that the summit meeting of Central American presidents will be held in Panama, Panama's integration with this regional body will be more expeditious?

[Endara] I hope integration will be expeditious. I would like to be able to sign the Central American Parliament treaty. I think that would be appropriate, and the atmosphere in Panama for signing the treaty is good. Before signing it, however, I want to consult all sectors, especially the political sectors, to make sure everybody agrees and that we are operating uniformly in international matters.

[Robledo] This is my last question. Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador are marching swiftly on the road to economic integration and general integration. How does Panama view this process, and when do you plan to sign a free trade treaty, if you have considered such a move.

[Endara] As you said, this is a process. This is not something that happens overnight. This is a process. We are happy with the progress that El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala have made. We hope to slowly reach that point. Economic realities do not allow such measures to happen overnight. It is necessary to adjust our economy so we can meet Panama's aspiration to be part of an economic bloc such as a Central American economic bloc.

[Moderator] The last question will be asked by Roberto Rodriguez from Radio KW Continente.

[Rodriguez] President, I would like to ask you about your trip to the United Nations. I want to know if you are going to make contact with investors there to encourage them to come to Panama. Europeans will also be there. What could you tell them about banana policies?

[Endara] I have no plans for any specific meeting with investors. However, whenever I go to the United States, some groups want to see me. I usually receive them and

listen to them. However, I have no plans for any such meeting. I do want to announce that I am going to meet with Roberto Kelly, the great Panamanian baseball player who is initiating a foundation for Panamanian children, with emphasis on baseball. [sentence as heard]

I am going to be named honorary president of that foundation. I will also have the honor of being Kelly's guest at the game to be played on Sunday at Yankee Stadium. That is the only meeting I have planned, and I am very enthusiastic about it.

I have no plans for meeting with Europeans in New York, but it could come up. Once you are in New York, many invitations to meetings come up.

[Moderator] Thank you, Mr. President, Mr. Minister, colleagues, listeners. Thank you for your understanding and attention to this news conference with the president. We shall see you on another occasion.

U.S. Soldiers 'Allegedly' Throw Explosive Device

PA2409183692 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1756 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] The National Police has detained four U.S. soldiers, two corporals and two sergeants, for allegedly throwing an explosive device at National Institute of Telecommunications workers, who were working near the Bridge of the Americas. The police did not indicate if it was a bomb or an action that requires legal punishment. [sentence as heard] It was reported, however, that the device was a fuse from a training grenade [una espoleta de una granada de practica] that could cause considerable damage.

Doctors Extend Strike Another 48 Hours

PA2409035092 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 23 Sep 92 p 1a

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] Approximately 2,000 doctors, members of the Association of Doctors, Dentists, and Related Professionals of the Social Security Fund (AMOACSS), have extended the strike they began on 21 September for 48 hours.

AMOACSS leaders decided to extend the stoppage in view of the Social Security Fund [CSS] authorities' refusal to meet the demands they made on 21 September. They noted that during the strike's first 48 hours, which ran out last night, no one from the CSS Board of Directors gave them a satisfactory answer to demands presented by the doctors' leaders.

The doctors held a general assembly and decided to picket CSS installations located at the Bolivar Building, where they will meet with the board of directors of that institution on 24 September.

The AMOACSS doctors called for improved working conditions, hiring more personnel, and purchasing equipment and a larger supply of medicines. The strike has paralyzed 10 hospitals and 34 polyclinics throughout the country.

Brazil

Justices' Decision on Collor Impeachment Viewed

PY2409184892 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Federal Supreme Court, STF, President Sydney Sanches has said that no injunction will be granted against the decision reached by the STF.

Here is Alexandre Garcia's live commentary from Brasilia:

[Begin Garcia relay] The STF president's official report on the result of yesterday's session is now being sent to the Chamber of Deputies president. The accordum, which is a summary of the session based on shorthand notes, will take some days to complete. It will be prepared by Justice Carlos Velloso.

STF President Sanches told me of the decisions reached yesterday by the STF. This is what he told me:

1. The STF extended the deadline for Collor's defense from five to 10 sessions;

2. The remaining rules for the impeachment process, as established by the Chamber of Deputies president, have not been altered;

3. There are no legal grounds for ordering a discovery period for the production of evidence or for questioning other witnesses while the process is being conducted at the Chamber of Deputies. This can be done if the process reaches the Senate;

4. There will be an open vote;

5. There are no grounds for granting an injunction on the issues decided upon yesterday;

6. The Chamber of Deputies has only to draft the committee report and vote whether or not it authorizes the Senate to impeach the president of the Republic.

Yesterday the STF justices deemed valid the request for Collor's impeachment and said that the process should be conducted at the Chamber of Deputies, which will be responsible for determining whether the initial petition is applicable. For these reasons there are no grounds for granting an injunction.

The presidential spokesman said yesterday that the government will win the process because it already has enough votes against the impeachment. Today, however, government supporter Deputy Roberto Jefferson of the Rio de Janeiro Brazilian Labor Party said that the government intends to obstruct the vote and convince congressmen not to attend the sessions, thus forcing the Chamber of Deputies to postpone the vote until after 3 October. This shows that the government realizes that the STF decision seals off all other possible ways out of the problem. [end relay]

Collor, Marques Not To Resign Before Vote

PY2409232292 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Presidential Press Secretary Etevaldo Dias today assured that President Fernando Collor is not planning to reshuffle the cabinet before the vote on the request for impeachment in the Chamber of Deputies.

Dias also denied reports that Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira will resign.

[Begin Dias recording] Quite the contrary. Minister Marcilio held two meetings with the president this morning, first at 0900, when he submitted a very positive report on the agreement reached on the foreign debt and the implications it will have for the Brazilian economy in the future. The minister noted that there are possibilities for major and almost immediate foreign investments in the industrial, commercial, and farming areas. This leads to the conclusion that there will be an inflow of foreign funds in the next few months.

Neither during that meeting nor a few minutes ago, when I talked with him, did he express any willingness to resign. On the contrary, the minister is working on projects for the country's future. [end recording]

Dias also ruled out the possibility of Collor resigning before the vote on the request for impeachment, noting that such an attitude would be meaningless because the government has enough votes to defeat the request for impeachment.

He denied reports that government lawmakers will not report to the Chamber of Deputies' session on the day of the vote. Dias concluded by saying that the president's order is to vote at the Chamber of Deputies' session and accept the decision, whatever the result.

First Lady To Be Indicted for Embezzlement

PY2509022492 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Sep 92 p 9

[Excerpt] Brasilia—First Lady Rosane Collor will be indicted for embezzlement in an inquest investigating misuse of public funds in the Brazilian Welfare Legion (LBA) during the period in which she was LBA president. She will be incriminated in an inquest on an agreement between the LBA and the Association for the Canapi Needy [Associacao Pro-carente de Canapi] (Alagoas State), chaired at that time by her sister-in-law, Maria Auxiliadora Brandao, who is married to her brother Pompilho Malta.

The association used the same invoices on purchases of equipment to render accounts on agreements with the LBA and the Brazilian Center for Childhood and Youth Foundation [Fundacao Centro Brasileiro para a Infancia e a Adolescencia] (FCBIA), both of which are linked to the Social Action Ministry. At that time, the FCBIA was chaired by Fatima Borges, who also was born in Alagoas

State and left the post because of her involvement in charges of irregularities in the allocation of funds. According to Federal Police sources, the crime of embezzlement is characterized by the double use of invoices. [passage omitted]

Approval for Impeachment 'The End' for Collor

PY2409191192 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Sep 92 Section 1 p 8

[Article by Lucio Vaz from Brasilia]

[Excerpts] President Fernando Collor and his leaders in Congress know that the approval of the impeachment request in the Chamber of Deputies would mean Collor's definitive separation from his position and the end of the Collor government. "We know that the moment the Chamber of Deputies approves the impeachment request the president will be out," admitted Deputy Jose Lourenco (PDS-BA) [Democratic Social Party-Bahia], deputy government leader in the chamber.

Asked if President Collor knows that he will not return to his position in the event of approval, Lourenco said: "We are all aware of it. It is a definite and pragmatic political perspective." Lourenco said that the president's removal is a one way trip. [passage omitted]

Deputy Nelson Jobim (PMDB-RS) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul], the coordinator of the special committee in the Chamber of Deputies, has said that the evidence presented by the president will be submitted to the Senate where he will be tried. Lourenco believes that the president's effort will be unproductive. He said: "We are experienced politicians and you are reporters that have long experience in the chamber. Once the impeachment is approved the president will be out." [passage omitted]

Highlights of Collor's Defense Viewed

PY2409221692 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1600 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Text] President Collor's defense asserts that the petition for an injunction did not demonstrate acts that might be considered malfeasance-in-office charges against the president. It adds that Barbosa Lima Sobrinho and Marcelo Lavenere, who requested the impeachment, could not legitimately do it and that the request should have been made by the Prosecutor's Office and sent to the Senate not to the Chamber of Deputies.

President Collor's defense lawyer has requested access to the Congressional Investigating Committee portfolio and the evidence. The defense questions Senator Amir Lando's report because he admitted he committed a mistake in making a written ratification to businessman Paulo Octavio. The defense also requested that 20 witnesses be heard, including Senator Amir Lando and six former ministers.

Opposition Campaigns To Improve Franco's Image

PY2409191392 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Sep 92 Section 1 p 8

[Excerpt] The opposition yesterday established two action fronts to approve the president's impeachment request: to show those undecided that Vice President Itamar Franco is no "freak," and to use the prestige of veteran legislators such as Ulysses Guimaraes and Jose Sarney to win over votes among the farmers and evangelists. Both of these groups are believed to be against the impeachment.

A committee was established yesterday with the purpose of introducing to Vice President Itamar Franco all those deputies who are interested in learning details about his administration, in the event he assumes the presidency.

The idea is to nullify the "counterinformation" campaign launched by government officials who are creating a negative image around Itamar Franco. [passage omitted]

Vice President Could Assume Power on 1 Oct

PY2409215092 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1701 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 24 Sep (EFE)—Brazilian Vice President Itamar Franco could take power on 1 October, provided that the decision to dismiss and impeach President Fernando Collor is approved.

Congressional sources told EFE that if Collor is dismissed after the crucial vote in the Chamber of Deputies on 29 or 30 September with two-thirds of the votes, it will be up to Senate President Mauro Benevides to put the presidential sash on Franco.

The installation ceremony will be held at Planalto Palace, the day after the vote in the Chamber of Deputies, which is controlled by the anti-Collor multiparty front.

After the Federal Supreme Court's [STF] significant ruling on 23 September on the public and urgent vote of the 503 deputies, the possibilities for Collor to continue in power are almost nonexistent.

Opposition Deputy Nelson Jobim, the coordinator of the pro-impeachment congressional committee, has stated that the anti-Collor front easily has two-thirds (336) of the votes needed to dismiss the president.

After the impeachment process is approved, the Chamber of Deputies submits the vote count proceedings record to the Senate president, who will report it to the plenum of 81 members. He then will go to Planalto Palace to preside over the installation ceremony.

A Senate president adviser told EFE that "this procedure lasts less than 24 hours." Benevides belongs to the opposition Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB).

Strictly speaking, this is not an installation ceremony because Itamar Franco along with Collor already were installed in a ceremony at the Senate on 15 March 1990 that was attended by various chiefs of states and presidents of the republics.

After the installation, the Senate president will hand over to STF President Sydney Sanches the control of the impeachment process, which can last for a maximum period of six months.

It is up to the Senate to conduct the impeachment and to hand down the ruling that will have to be approved by two-thirds (54 out of 81) of the votes. [passage omitted]

State Bank Said Engaged in Political Maneuvering

PY2409221092 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Sep 92 Section 1 p 5

[Text] The Bank of Brazil Foundation (FBB) has released 133 billion cruzeiros in the first nine months of 1992. This figure is equivalent to four times 1991 expenses (33 billion cruzeiros, adjusted for inflation). The funds, which FBB Chairman Lafaiete Coutinho released with political criteria, are non-reimbursable.

Among FBB expenses are 115.3 billion cruzeiros that have been used for granting 422 requests made by 248 lawmakers. There are 262 other requests from the same lawmakers, which are being studied. Those figures appear in the complete official list of funds that lawmakers have obtained as middlemen, which FOLHA obtained yesterday.

According to the list, funds are being released at a growing rate, reaching higher values as the debate on impeachment moves forward. The list includes 40 opposition lawmakers, some of whom—according to what FOLHA could learn—are part of a secret government list of deputies who will support Planalto Palace in case of a secret vote.

The complete list adds news with respect to a list that was published by FOLHA on 19 September. For example, it includes Senate President Mauro Benevides (PMDB-CE) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Ceara]. The list also includes Chamber of Deputies President Ibsen Pinheiro (PMDB-RS) [Rio Grande do Sul]. The requests by Benevides and Pinheiro have not been granted yet.

Another new feature on the list is the name of Deputy Delfim Netto (PDS-SP) [Democratic Social Party-Sao Paulo], who favors impeachment. Two of his requests were approved. One of them is for Apae [expansion unknown] of Itatiba (40 million cruzeiros). The other one is for the Zerbini Foundation (1 billion cruzeiros).

Senator Jarbas Passarinho (PDS-PA) [Para] obtained one of the largest individual figures. In March, he obtained 24 billion cruzeiros for creating the Belem museum.

Paraiba is the northeastern state that has received the highest amount: 8 billion cruzeiros. Born in Paraiba, Lafaiete Coutinho has political aspirations in this area. Rio de Janeiro is the state that has received the largest amount: 35 billion cruzeiros.

An analysis of the documents reveals that only 10 requests—2 percent of all requests—surpass 990 million cruzeiros. In February, Lafaiete Coutinho introduced changes in FBB statutes to permit the release of amounts smaller than 990 million cruzeiros without an evaluation by the FBB Technical Council.

Judgment of Bank of Brazil Chief Criticized

PY2509011292 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Sep 92 p 10

[Article by Silvia Faria]

[Excerpt] Washington and Brasilia—Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira yesterday condemned the precipitate judgment of Bank of Brazil President Lafaiete Torres, who was accused of using public funds for political purposes. Marcilio said that no expenses are being made beyond the national budget or without a well-founded allocation. He said he does not see why the Bank of Brazil president should leave his post right now. Marcilio nonetheless stressed that he is not responsible for the nature of the expenses, although he is responsible for their control.

Marcilio expressed his rejection of the wave of charges and prejudgments unleashed in the Paulo Cesar Farias case. Marcilio condemned what he called "moralist mediocrity" by saying that the ethics crisis will not be resolved with superficial solutions.

"I am responsible for the macroeconomic administration of public expenses. It is not my duty to see to the details of the expenses. I can say that no expenses beyond the budget are being made without a proper allocation or backing," Marcilio said in his last day in Washington.

The minister recalled that the federal court decision to separate Lafaiete Torres from the Bank of Brazil Foundation was blocked and that the charges have not been investigated yet. [passage omitted]

National Communications Secretary Resigns

PY2409234692 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] National Communications Secretary Nelson Marchezan today left his post. Assistant Communications Secretary (Joaquim Cruz) took over as acting secretary.

Marchezan officially announced his resignation during a news conference:

[Begin Marchezan recording] I decided to leave the government 30 days ago. I told the president that I no

longer had the support of [words indistinct] and that consequently, I could not cooperate. The president asked me to stay, but now it is my own personal decision. Last week, when there were rumors that the government could defeat the request for impeachment, I decided to resign. I did not do it on 18 September because on that day the president's mother was in very serious condition. On 21 September, I tendered my resignation through Minister Affonso Camargo. Ministers Fiuza and Camargo, however, asked me to stay until today. [end recording]

Before officially announcing his resignation, Marchezan said goodbye to his closest assistants, saying that he was proud of the work that all of them did during the four and one-half months that he headed the National Communications Secretariat.

Financing Agreement With U.S. Viewed

PY2509000892 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Sep 92 p 27

[Article by Jose Meirelles Passos]

[Text] Washington—The Brazilian and U.S. Governments yesterday signed a bilateral agreement that somewhat lightens the Brazilian foreign debt situation and also reopens the possibility that the United States may again grant new financing to Brazil.

Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira and Joseph Saloom, U.S. assistant secretary for international finances and development [name and title as published] signed a document that guarantees the restructuring of $1.6 billion of the Brazilian public debt with the United States. Most of that money is owed to the U.S. Eximbank. The remaining debt is owed to the U.S. Agency for International Development and the U.S. Agriculture Department.

"We are extremely satisfied at having reached this agreement, which places Brazil a step closer to the normalization of relations with the international financial community. We hope it soon will come into effect and that Brazil will continue reforming its economy and complying with its commitments," Eximbank President John Macomber said.

In order to stress the importance of the agreement, Marcilio recalled that the Eximbank is closely connected with Brazilian development: "The Eximbank financed the construction of the National Steel Plant in Volta Redonda and the construction of Brasilia."

Chile

Further on Accusations of Telephone Espionage

U.S. Embassy Mentioned

PY2509025092 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpt] The accusation of telephone espionage made by a former security agent, which was transmitted by this newscast, also reactivated the congress committee that is investigating the political espionage case. The congressmen agreed to cooperate with Judge Alberto Chigneau [who is investigating the telephone espionage case of Senator Sebastian Pineira] and to summon several people for questioning.

The congressmen analyzed the situation during a special session, and they decided to summon for questioning next week acting Defense Minister Enrique Krauss; Jorge Donoso and Jorge Navarrete, executives of Television Nacional de Chile; Patricia Politzer, press director of the aforementioned television station; journalist Santiago Pablovich; Dine [Army Intelligence Directorate] Director General Eugenio Covarrubias; and two officers from the Army building on Garcia Reyes Street.

The congressional committee also decided to send a message to the Chilean Foreign Ministry to help clarify the presumption that the U.S. Embassy in Santiago has telephone espionage equipment. The congressmen agreed to closely cooperate with Judge Chigneau. [passage omitted]

Former Official Confirms Spying

PY2409185092 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Former Civilian Police Director Horacio Toro, who resigned from his post in March 1992 because of accusations of political espionage conducted by his institution, has revealed that his services have for a long time known that the Dine [Army Intelligence Directorate] has been carrying out telephone espionage activities. Toro said: As I reported when Army troops confined themselves to their barracks in a show of force against the government, in an operation known as the liaison maneuver, it was obvious that investigative police communications were being intercepted by the technical units of military intelligence.

He added that this report was also submitted to the Chamber of Deputies Investigative Committee and to the government. He added that on that occasion he informed the committee and the interior minister that his three private telephone lines were tapped. This was technically verified and recorded in a notary's office, he said.

As director of the Investigative Police, I received information that the national congress was also the object of telecommunications espionage, Toro said. He concluded by saying that in addition to these reports, several political figures reported that they were subject to telephone espionage during the years 1991 and 1992.

Judge Asked To Visit Dine

PY2409220492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Sep 92

[By Teresa Abarria]

[Text] Special Judge Alberto Chaigneau has asked a military judge to visit the building on Garcia Reyes street where a Dine [Army Intelligence Directorate] office reportedly is dedicated to telephone espionage. According to this request, a military prosecutor must be designated to inspect the building. Judge Chaigneau said that he is only investigating the telephone espionage affecting National Renewal Party Senator Sebastian Pinera.

When he was asked about the state of alert decreed by the Army, he said that if it seeks to intimidate him, it will fail:

[Begin recording] Why should I be concerned? [sentence indistinct] I am in charge of the investigations and I will have to decide what to do. If someone says something, it does not mean that someone is guilty. [words indistinct] I do not know why they are so concerned. I do not know why there is a state of alert. But if they are trying to scare me, well, I do not get scared easily. [end recording]

In the morning, the judge questioned National Renewal Secretary General (Roberto Sandon), who testified for more than one hour. After leaving the judge's office, (Sandon) said he is forbidden to make remarks due to the secrecy of the trial.

Concerning the Army's state of alert, he said that he believes this type of measure is normal when a special judge is investigating this type of action.

Students, Others Demonstrate

PY2409215492 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpts] A confusing demonstration, which was partially carried out, took place around noon today in front of the Army intelligence battalion on Garcia Reyes Street. About 20 university and human rights youth leaders were involved.

The demonstrators, headed by FECh [Student Federation of Chile] President Arturo Barrios, convened at the intersection of Garcia Reyes Street and Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins Avenue.

The demonstrators tried to unfold two banners in front of the military unit, asking for [General Augusto] Pinochet's resignation and the Dine's [Army Intelligence Directorate] abolishment.

But a special Carabineros forces group prevented the demonstrators from unfolding their banners. [passage omitted]

The demonstration, which gathered University of Chile, University of Santiago, and Codeju [National Commission for Children's Rights] leaders, was only partially carried out because the youths occasionally managed to unfold their banners and only remained for 10 minutes in front of the military premises.

Pinochet Blames Communists

PY2409214292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1711 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Mar del Plata, 24 Sep (TELAM)—General Augusto Pinochet, Chile's Army commander in chief, today stated that the serious allegations of telephone tapping raised against the Chilean Armed Forces "is a campaign orchestrated by communists to lay the blame on the Army."

In brief remarks to the press at noon today at the Provincial Hotel in the city of Mar del Plata, where he currently is staying, Pinochet put the accusation down to "an orchestration (a campaign) concocted by communists or Marxists, whichever you like to call them, in order to put the blame on the Army. That is what I think."

Ecuador

Students Destroy Doors, Windows at Congress

PA2509010792 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpt] There were renewed disturbances at the National Congress on 24 September when student delegations from the nation's universities marched to the legislature to demand the examination of university budgets and to declare their opposition to the package of economic measures implemented by the government.

The students destroyed doors and windows when members of the Public Force denied them entry to the Congress building. [passage omitted].

Explosive Device Set Off at Health Ministry

PA2409160192 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1312 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Quito, 24 Sep (EFE)—Authorities confirmed on 24 September that a low-power explosive device was set off at the Health Ministry on the night of 23 September.

The explosion occurred at 2230 (0330 GMT) and only damaged the ministry's door.

No one has claimed responsibility for the action and no posters or pamphlets were found at the site to help identify those responsible.

The attack occurred at the end of the first nationwide strike by the country's main labor confederation against the neoliberal economic measures of President Sixto Duran-Ballen's government.

Paragauy

Colonel Testifies on Car Trafficking Scandal

PY2409211692

[Editorial Report] Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 22 September on pages 2-4, and on 23 September on pages 2-5, publishes the 8,400-word text in two parts of Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas' court testimony on car trafficking in the Chaco region.

In the first part of his testimony Col. Gonzalez confirms he had knowledge that "crimes of smuggling, rustling, bribery, car theft, and illegal car trafficking allegedly occurred in the jurisdiction of Captain Joel Estigarribia and Major Infante Rivarola in the Paraguayan Chaco region."

Col. Gonzalez says he took over as commander of the 4th Infantry Division on 11 May, replacing Brigade General Lorenzo Carrillo Mello, and adds that on 12 May he began a tour of the area under his jurisdiction in the company of Chief of Staff Colonel Cirilo Velazquez. Col. Gonzalez says that Infante Rivarola Commander Lieutenant Lino Riquelme Duarte "commented that Gen. Carrillo used to authorize the passage of vehicles through the area, and that Carrillo was responsible for collecting dues from traffickers in Asuncion, adding that the garrison also charged additional dues." Col. Gonzalez says he ordered "all trafficking totally forbidden as of today."

Col. Gonzalez says "he reported the irregularities to Army Commander General Humberto Garcete on 19 May" and to Division General Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena, the 3d Army Corps commander based in Mariscal Estigarribia, on 26 May.

Col. Gonzalez says that "on 16 July he received a note signed by Elio Masagrande reporting that car trafficking was occurring through his property. An area map and the copy of a telegram sent to Juan de Dios Martinez, forbidding him to pass through his property, was attached."

Col. Gonzalez says that on 20 July he returned to Infante Rivarola, where Commander Riquelme told him that "two vehicles had passed through, and that he charged the drivers $1,500 for each vehicle." Col. Gonzalez says he immediately placed Riquelme under arrest, replacing him with Lieutenant Milciades Lopez.

Col. Gonzalez' testimony says that on 5 July he investigated an area near the border with Bolivia, finding a group of traffickers who fled into Bolivia leaving behind "various personal effects." Col. Gonzalez says that "on 8 August he personally presented his report and the inventory of what was seized at the border to Gen. Balbuena," adding that Balbuena treated him harshly, particularly about "the finding of Carlos Manuel Maggi Rolon's personal documents."

Col. Gonzalez then says that on 10 August he went to see Gen. Garcete, carrying with him the personal effects found during his raid at the Bolivian border. Gonzalez says that Garcete "introduced him to two individuals in his office, and that one of them identified himself as Juan de Dios Martinez." Col. Gonzalez says that "Martinez demanded the return of his bag and revolver right in front of Garcete" and that he refused because the bag's contents were part of the evidence.

Col. Gonzalez adds that Gen. Garcete "accused Martinez and the other individual of being responsible for car trafficking in the Chaco, ordered them not to return to the area," and suggested the use of a legal expert to conduct an inquiry.

The testimony says that the military court assigned Captain Felipe Mercado to the case, adding that during Col. Gonzalez' first meeting with Mercado, Col. Gonzalez was advised of "the visit by Juan de Dios Martinez and Carlos Maggi Rolon, who reiterated their request for the return of the bag and revolver" that he had seized as evidence in the Chaco.

The testimony says that Mercado then advised Col. Gonzalez that "he was getting into something big, which could not benefit him, and that he already had participated in several investigations involving Martinez" that had ended in nothing. Col. Gonzalez says that under the circumstances he felt the need to "carry all the evidence to the Cossia Public Notary offices for a detailed account," and to register his report.

Col. Gonzalez says that on 12 August he learned that Mercado had been taken off the case, and that from now on the investigation would be conducted by 3d Corps Commander Gen. Balbuena, who asked him to come to Mariscal Estigarribia for a meeting. Col. Gonzalez says that "Gen. Balbuena treated him harshly, saying that his report was all wrong and that he was only getting himself involved in problems."

In the second part of the testimony on 23 September, Col. Gonzalez says that on 13 August "Gen. Balbuena handed him a copy of the order to conduct an inquiry on irregularities in Infante Rivarola."

Col. Gonzalez says that on 18 August, Juan de Dios Martinez came to see him offering "to pay him as much as he wished to settle the issue." Col. Gonzalez testified that Martinez said he had been operating in car trafficking since General Eduardo Sanchez was the commander and that he met Gen. Garcete at about that time. According to the testimony, Martinez said he trafficked about 300 vehicles during that period.

Col. Gonzalez says that on 18 August he asked Gen. Garcete's permission to speak with the commander in chief, that is, President Andres Rodriguez, adding that on 19 August he came to the commander in chief to verify if he had an audience.

Col. Gonzalez says that General Regis Romero called him to his office to try to convince him not to see Rodriguez. Gonzalez says that "Regis Romero then called Gen. Balbuena," who in turn called Gen. Garcete "and the three tried to prevent him from seeing the commander in chief, asking him to take his things back to his post and stay quiet waiting for his promotion at the end of the year." Col. Gonzalez says he refused and that he was then told he would be relieved of his duties. But I "exhibited the document registered at the notary public and warned them of the consequences."

Col. Gonzalez says that "Gen. Garcete then had Juan de Dios Martinez called to his office" to question him "in front of Rear Admiral Andres Legal Basualdo, Military Supreme Court president, and Division General Eumelio Bernal, chief of general staff." Col. Gonzalez says that Martinez admitted to having been active in car trafficking for a long time and to having worked for Gen. Garcete.

The testimony says that Gen. Garcete interrupted, shouting: "He lies!, explaining that former President Alfredo Stroessner had authorized the activity when Gen. Sanchez was the commander."

Gen. Bernal then asked Martinez about his modus operandi. Martinez answered that "3 million guaranies were paid for each vehicle to pass without being molested but added that the charge was later raised to 5.5 million guaranies and that the money was handed to Mariscal Estigarribia customs officer Villanueva." Martinez added that "2 million went to the Army Corps, 1.5 million to the 6th Division, and the rest was distributed among custom officers." The testimony says that Gen. Bernal walked out of the meeting as soon as he heard this.

Col. Gonzalez says that on 20 August, First Lieutenant Bartolome Mendez of the 1st Army Corps was appointed legal adviser to conclude the inquiry.

The document says that at this point the court asked Col. Gonzalez to recognize as authentic a series of documents pertaining to the inquiry conducted by him and Bartolome Mendez. The testimony says that Col. Gonzalez recognized all the authenticated copies and added that "on 27 August he made two copies of the report and handed one of them to Gen. Garcete."

Col. Gonzalez says that on 3 September, Gen. Garcete told him that he was "under restrictive arrest and that he had been replaced." The testimony says that Gen. Garcete said to Col. Gonzalez that he had been charged with "slander against Gens. Humberto Garcete, Emilio Balbuena, Marino Gonzalez, and Regis Romero."

Col. Gonzalez' testimony ends with questions asked by the court seeking to clarify charges, responsibilities, and proceedings mentioned in the inquiry.

Police Chief Blamed

PY2409223092 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 24 Sep 92 pp 2, 3

[Excerpts] As a result of a police operation, several vehicles of dubious origin were seized yesterday at a warehouse and a body shop in Asuncion. A search warrant was issued by Criminal Judge Nelson Mora, who also ordered the arrest of the alleged criminals. A probe into the car-trafficking business is being conducted and it is thought that Police Inspector Luis Ibarra—who already is under arrest on the orders of his superiors—and other influential people might be implicated in this crime. [passage omitted]

Commenting on yesterday's operation, Deputy Francisco Jose de Vargas, who sits on the congressional committee that investigates crimes, said that he had time and again publicly stated that "car thieves were hand in glove with senior police officers. I informed the chief of police (General Francisco Sanchez) about this on several occasions. Some congressmen can bear witness to the fact that I told the chief of police that some heads of Asuncion police precincts are implicated in the car-trafficking business. Notwithstanding this, the chief of police did not even bother to write down the names of those police officers or the number of the police stations they head. What we found today clearly shows that car thieves work hand in glove with some police inspectors and that these criminals are to be found here precisely because of police corruption. I wonder how it is possible that I, merely an ordinary citizen, have learned about this link while the chief of police himself has not. Why hasn't he intervened in this affair, then?" When NOTICIAS asked De Vargas whether he is holding the chief of police responsible for this crime, De Vargas came straight out with a point-blank answer: "Honestly, I believe so." [passage omitted]

Garcete Willing To Testify

PY2409231892 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Sep 92 p 4

[Text] "I am willing to attend the summons of any judge, be it from ordinary or military justice, to clarify this situation because I am the person who is most interested in clarifying this case," Army Commander Division General Humberto Garcete said 23 September.

The general thus referred to the charges raised against him by Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas in his court testimony about the illegal trafficking of stolen cars to Bolivia.

In reply to a question, Garcete said he did not know the so-called "Big Head," a man of allegedly great influence and the brains behind the stolen car trafficking mentioned by Col. Gonzalez Rojas in his testimony. "I do not know who he is; I do not consider myself a 'big head'," Garcete said.

The Army commander reiterated that he did not know or maintain any commercial ties with Juan de Dios Martinez, who is currently at large and one of the main people charged with trafficking in stolen cars.

He said that when Juan de Dios Martinez was in his office during the presence of Col. Gonzalez Rojas he did not arrest him because he did not have evidence. "Martinez also visited Gonzalez Rojas' office and he also did not arrest him," Garcete said.

When asked how it is that Martinez was once located through the military intelligence services and that now he cannot be found, Garcete said: "Because I had his phone number, but he is no longer there."

The Army commander was interviewed several times last night during his military activities. In an interview, he attributed Col. Gonzalez Rojas' charges to political interests.

"The military problem has been taken advantage of to use it in the political field, to attempt to manipulate the Armed Forces," Gen. Garcete said.

However, he did not specify who is manipulating the facts. "Well, I cannot make declarations. I am just doing this because I do not want to avoid responsibility and because I am the main person interested in clarifying this case," he said.

When asked why he said that a political advantage was being sought through the charges raised by Col. Gonzalez Rojas, Garcete said: "Leave this to me. They are taking advantage of a case involving a military man to attempt to destroy the Armed Forces' prestige."

"You do not know the danger society may run if the Armed Forces are discredited or destroyed. Remember me, you destroy the Armed Forces with your statements—the media and all those people who make hasty judgments of the Armed Forces, harming people's reputations—and then you will see what happens," the military chief warned the media.

When Gen. Garcete was asked his opinion about the charges made by retired Colonel Victorino Amarilla about drug trafficking in the Chaco region, he either abruptly ended the interview or answered evasively.

"I know nothing (about drug trafficking), but just imagine, who would think that the DEA would not have intervened when it learned of a case, as stated by Col. Amarilla. Why is Col. Amarilla making these charges just now and why did he not make them at the appropriate moment?" he said.

When told that the U.S. Embassy confirmed that drug trafficking activities occurred in the Chaco region, Gen. Garcete abruptly ended the interview. "You know, I do not want to get off the subject. I thank you for the opportunity you gave me to express to the citizenry that I am the main person interested in clarifying this case," Garcete said.

Officers in Custody

PY2509000292 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Sep 92 p 5

[Excerpt] The office of the Armed Forces commander in chief has informed Judge Angel Barchini that Lieutenant Lino Riquelme and Sub-Lieutenant Milciades Lopez Florentin, of the 4th Infantry Division, are under arrest at the Military Justice Service Directorate. This information was given within the framework of investigations into the case of the trafficking of stolen vehicles to Bolivia.

In the note, signed by President Andres Rodriguez in his role as Armed Forces commander in chief, the Supreme Military Court president, Rear Admiral Andres Ramon Legal, says that the aforementioned officers are under preventive custody in compliance with Resolution No. 1492 dated 18 September.

The note states that the arrest was ordered by military Trial Judge Francisco Torales in the case investigating the smuggling of automobiles and trucks allegedly involving border detachments in the Chaco region.

The Armed Forces note is in response to an arrest warrant issued by Judge Barchini against the officers after the charges filed by attorneys Hermes Rafael Saguier and Francisco Gonzalez Rojas (brother of Colonel Luis Gonzalez Rojas) for alleged trafficking of vehicles, cattle rustling, bribery, and unlawful association for criminal purposes.

Riquelme and Lopez Florentin admitted to Col. Gonzalez Rojas having accepted large sums of money (up to $1,500) to allow stolen vehicles into Bolivia. According to the charges, the colonel dismissed the officers and immediately drew up an indictment for the crimes perpetrated. [passage omitted]

Carrillo Melo's Arrest Ordered

PY2409220092 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 24 Sep 92 p 15

[Excerpt] Shortly before sending this issue to print, it was learned that—as a result of the statement that Colonel Luis Catalino Gonzalez Rojas made at the court headed by Judge Jose Agustin Fernandez—the judge ordered the arrest of retired General Lorenzo Carrillo Melo. Gonzalez Rojas had replaced Carrillo Melo as commander of the 4th Infantry Division headquartered in Joel Estigarribia.

The judge also ordered the arrest of Juan de Dios Martinez, Carlos Manuel Maggi Rolon, and Lieutenant Lino Riquelme.

The judge summoned the following generals to provide information: Army Commander Humberto Garcete; Anibal Regis Romero, chief of the Presidential Military Household; 3d Army Commander Emilio Balbuena; and Rear Admiral Ramon Legal Basualdo, who is the Supreme Military Court president. The judge stated that

the generals and the rear admiral must supply the requested information in writing, since they are chiefs of military institutions. [passage omitted]

Peru

Guzman Shown to Media at Dincote Headquarters

PA2409205992

[Editorial Report] Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish at 1834 GMT on 24 September broadcasts live a 35-minute report from the yard of the Counterterrorism National Directorate, Dincote, headquarters in Lima, where Shining Path leaders Abimael Guzman and Maritza Garrido Lecca are introduced to the news media. A large cage covered with a drape is seen in the left hand corner of the yard. Eight Dincote officials stand guarding it. An unidentified correspondent reports background information on Abimael Guzman.

An unidentified Dincote spokesman arrives and stands behind a podium, where he reads a statement to the media. The correspondent then summarizes this statement and says he has heard that journalists will be given ample time to photograph Guzman.

After giving a list of the major operations conducted by the Shining Path since 1980, the official introduces Maritza Garrido Lecca, the only arrested rebel leader who had not been presented to the media. While he reads background information on her, she comes out of Dincote headquarters, flanked by two officers, wearing a prison uniform. She stands in front of reporters and is heard shouting Shining Path slogans. Reporters jeer her as she is led out of the yard.

At 1842 GMT the Dincote official gives the order and the drape covering the cage is removed. Guzman is seen wearing a prison uniform and wearing dark glasses. Staring calmly at the audience, he begins to speak. His remarks are inaudible. A reporter is heard asking: "What can you say about the 27,000 people killed?"

Without acknowledging the question, Guzman continues speaking. He says: "Peruvian people. We are living heroic moments. Each one of you must be clear about this. Let us not deceive ourselves. At this time we must prepare all of our forces to confront the [word indistinct], to continue to do our job, to achieve our goals, the success, the historic..." The reporter interrupts Guzman, saying: "What can you say about the 25,000 dead?" Guzman continues to speak, saying: "... as children of the country, we are fighting in this trench, which is [words indistinct] because we are communists. We are defending here the interests of the people, the principles of the party, the people's war." The same reporter asks: "Who are the people who support you?" The journalists in the audience are heard jeering.

At 1846 GMT the anchorwoman breaks in to say Guzman has begun a monologue and "out of respect for the dead" the television station "cannot" broadcast his remarks. The station anchorwoman and the correspondent at Dincote headquarters criticize Guzman for "refusing to answer" questions. They describe all the deaths and destruction the Shining Path has inflicted on Peru. They continue speaking until 1848 GMT, when the correspondent announces the news conference is over. At 1900 GMT journalists covering the event begin to sing the national anthem. Guzman stands upright and raises his left fist. At 1905 GMT the reporter repeats Dincote has ended the news conference. The live broadcast ends at 1907 GMT.

Dincote Official's Speech

PA2409212592 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1835 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Statement by unidentified official of the Counterterrorism National Directorate, Dincote, at the presentation of Shining Path leaders Abimael Guzman Reynoso and Maritza Garrido Lecca to the media at Dincote headquarters in Lima—live; monitored in progress because of station announcer's introduction]

[Text] ...national and international media [words indistinct] on 12 September of the current year apprehended [words indistinct] Abimael Guzman Reynoso, alias Comrade Gonzalo, head of the terrorist organization Shining Path [SL] along with other members of the leadership of this clandestine organization. This operation was the result of work done under close wraps; of lengthy and closely guarded work of a highly technical nature. This operation required several months of work and its details cannot be revealed, as I am sure you will understand, because we are continuing our permanent struggle against subversion in all its forms and this makes it unwise to reveal the tools of our trade.

It is important to stress, however, that for this operation the Counterterrorism National Directorate [Dincote] used the same methodology and procedures that it uses for similar cases. That is, it worked within the framework of the law and with total respect for human rights.

In the building at 459 Los Sauces Street, the following persons were apprehended along with Abimael Guzman Reynoso: Elena Albertina Iparraguire Revoredo, alias Miriam; Maria Pantoja Sanchez, alias (Malia); and Laura Zambrano Padilla, alias Meche; members of the SL Central Committee: Maritza Yolanda Garrido Lecca (Risco), Carlos Andres Inchaustegui Degola, Celso Garrido Lecca Seminario, and Carmen Patricia (Ahuapara Penali). The following was found on the premises: SL documents, computer equipment, and subversive propaganda.

I would like to remind everyone that from 1980, when terrorist violence began in the country, until today, Peru has paid a high social cost: More than 25,000 persons have died because of the violence. Several thousand of the victims were defenseless women and children. Damage to public and private property has reached $22

billion. It is therefore not strange that Luis Arce Borja, the SL spokesman in Belgium, has said that the SL does not care if it kills 1 million people in its effort to reach power.

Among the most serious operations attributed to the SL that have shocked the public both at home and abroad, we can mention the following:

As everyone is aware, on 17 May 1980 the armed struggle began in Peru with an incursion into the Electoral Registry offices in the (Xuxchi) District, (Candayo) Province, Ayacucho Department.

On 24 December 1980 there was an attack with firearms and explosives on Hacienda San Agustin, (Ataxaja), Ayacucho Department. A section of the Norperuano oil pipeline was blown up.

Peasants in Ayacucho Department were mass murdered in 1983.

On 22 June 1984, 120 peasants were murdered in the area of (Azeropotro) and (Atxiocoya), Ayacucho.

There was an armed incursion in (Ojos) District, Ayacucho, that caused the destruction of the church and the council building.

In July 1984, 55 residents of the (Guayaguacoto) settlement in Ayacucho were murdered.

In Lima in 1986 the SL carried out the selective annihilation of Vice Admiral Jeronimo (Capetato Almaran).

In 1988 there was an ambush on a Peruvian Army patrol in the area of (Eruscohuancatia), Ayacucho. Its seven members were murdered.

On 26 July 1988 in Apurimac a Peruvian Army patrol was ambushed. The head of the counterguerrilla base in (Sitibandias), Apurimac, was killed.

On 3 June 1989 there was a dynamite attack in Lima against an Army vehicle that was carrying [words indistinct] for the escort regiment [words indistinct].

On 21 May 1991 there was an armed incursion into the town of (Huatahuat), Junin Department, in which five persons, including Australian nun Sister Irene [name indistinct] (McCormack).

In July 1991 there was an armed incursion into the horticultural center in Huaraz, in which three Japanese engineers were murdered.

More recently, Maria Elena Moyano Delgado, deputy mayor of Villa El Salvador, was killed; and on 22 May 1992 a car bomb exploded at the intersection of Rivera Navarrete and Juan de Arona streets in San Isidro.

On 5 July a car bomb exploded at Channel 2 television, and, to close, on 16 July 1992 a car bomb exploded between Larco Avenue and (Taranta-Miraflores) Street, killing 20 persons, including children, women, and senior citizens; wounding 150; and causing extensive damage.

Following this summary of the most serious incidents, we are now going to bring out Maritza Yolanda Garrido Lecca.

Government Extends State of Emergency 60 Days

PA2409200692 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1724 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Lima, 24 Sep (NOTIMEX)—President Alberto Fujimori's government extended the state of emergency for 60 more days in the Peruvian capital and in the neighboring Callao Province, as the rebel violence has continued.

The measures restricting the constitutional rights of 8 million inhabitants is established in a supreme communique published in the official newspaper EL PERUANO.

The Armed Forces Joint Command argued that the emergency situation is due to the "continued terrorist actions that have prompted these measures." These measures were enforced more than five years ago.

The government disposition highlights that during the duration of the state of exception, the Armed Forces will control internal order. [passage omitted]